

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 2095.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.

PRICE
THREEPENCE
Stamped Edition, 4d.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

FACULTY of MEDICINE. The CLASSES will RECOMMENCE on THURSDAY, January 9, 1868.

Faculty of Arts. The Lent Term will commence on Thursday, January 2, 1868. In most of the Classes such a division of the subjects is made as enables Students to enter with advantage at this period.

The School for Boys between the ages of Seven and Sixteen, the Lent Term will begin for New Pupils at 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, January 14, 1868. Former pupils must return on the following day.

The Evening Classes for Classes Modern Languages, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Law, &c. The Lent Term will commence on Monday, January 13, 1868.

Proceedings of the various Departments of the College, containing full information respecting Classes, Fees, Days and Hours of Attendance, &c., and Copies of the Circular Letters, Scholarships and Prizes open to competition by Students of the several Faculties, may be obtained at the Office of the College on application, either personal or by letter.

The College is very near the Lower-street Station of the Metropolitan Railway, which is a frequent walk of the Terminal of the North-Western, Midland, and Great Northern Railways.

JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.

December 18, 1867.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE and UNIVERSITY COLLEGE SCHOOL.

Mr. TALFOULD ELY, M.A., Fellow of University College, London, Associate Master of University College, and also Assistant Master in University College School, receives THREE PUPILS as residents in his house.—For terms, &c., apply to Mr. ELY, at his residence, 10, Eldon-road, Ely, Hampshire, N.W.

ROYAL ACADEMY of ARTS.—At a General Assembly of the Academicians and Associates, held on Wednesday, the 18th instant, GEORGE FREDERICK WATTS, Esq., was ELECTED a ROYAL ACADEMICIAN.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Sec.

ROYAL INSTITUTION of GREAT BRITAIN, Albemarle-street, W.

C H R I S T M A S C O U R S E.

Professor TYNDALL, F.R.S., will COMMENCE a Course of SIX LECTURES, in the Lecture-Auditory, at the HEAVENLY HALL, on THURSDAY NEXT, December 13, at Three o'clock.

Admission to this Course, One Guinea; Children under sixteen years, Half-a-Guinea; to all the Courses in the Session, Two Guineas. A Syllabus may be obtained at the Royal Institution.

Dec. 21, 1867.

H. BENCE JONES, Hon. Sec.

A R U N D E L S O C I E T Y.

All persons can at once become Members, and will receive in return for the Subscription of the current year Two Chromolithographs of the following subjects:—

ZACHARIES NAMING HIS SON JOHN, From a Fresco by GHIRLANDAIO in S. Maria Novella at Florence.

POETRY.

From a Fresco by RAFFAELLE in the Stanze of the Vatican.

The Subscription closes on the 31st of December. Specimens of the Publications may be seen in the Rooms of the Society. Prospects, and Lists of Works on Sale, will be sent by post on application to the Secretary.

F. W. MAYNARD, Secretary.

34, Old Bond-street, W.

T H E D R A W I N G S and P U B L I C A T I O N S of the ARUNDEL SOCIETY are OPEN DAILY to the inspection of the Public. New Drawings are ON VIEW from the Works of Perugino, Ghirlandaio, A. del Sarto and Van Eyck.

F. W. MAYNARD, Secretary.

24, Old Bond-street, W.

L I F E B O A T S E R V I C E S .

During the Storms of the present year, the National Lifeboat Institution has contributed to the saving of 1,985 lives from various shipwrecks, and to vessels from destruction.

The Committee earnestly appeal for assistance to meet the continued heavy demands on their 186 Lifeboat Establishments.—Contributions will be thankfully received by Messrs. Hills & Co., Cornhill, Co., Heriot's Co., by all the other London and County Bankers, and by the Secretary, Richard Lewis, Esq., at the Institution, 14, John-street, Adelphi, London.

N A T I O N A L P O R T R A I T G A L L E R Y , 29, Great George-street, Westminster.

OPEN Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, from TEN till DUSK.—Admission free.

The Gallery will be open every day (Wednesday excepted) during Christmas week.

By order of the Trustees,

GEORGE SCHAFR, Secretary and Keeper.

O W E N S C O L L E G E, M A N C H E S T E R , (in Connexion with the University of London).

P R O F E S S O R S H I P of C I V I L and M E C H A N I C A L E N G I N E E R I N G .

The Trustees of Owens College, having in view the organization of a Department of Engineering, propose to APPOINT a PROFESSOR who shall enter on the permanent duties of the Chair at the Commencement of the Session 1868-69.

In the meantime, they would be glad to provide a Course of Lectures on the Subjects of the Department, from the end of February to June, 1868.

It is proposed that the Salary of the Professor shall be £200 per annum, with a proportion of the Fees paid by the Students.

The remuneration for the shorter Course contemplated for the present session would be £100 per annum.

Gentlemen willing to become Candidates for the Professorship, or to offer their services for the delivery of the preliminary Course of Lectures, are invited to send Applications and Testimonials to "The Trustees, Owens College, Manchester," under date to the Registrar, or before the 11th of January, 1868.

Further information will be given on application to the Principal.

The Trustees particularly request that application may not be made to them individually.

J. G. GREENWOOD, Principal.

J. HOLME NICHOLSON, Registrar.

Dec. 12, 1867.

S O C I E T Y of F E M A L E A R T I S T S .

All Works intended for the ensuing Exhibition must be sent to the Gallery, 9, Conduit-street, Regent-street, on the 6th and 7th of January, 1868.—Application for admission to the Academy for the study from the Living Costume Model (held during the time of the Exhibition) to be made to the Hon. Sec.

This year the Academy will be open to Female Students.

For Boys between the ages of Seven and Sixteen, the Lent Term will begin for New Pupils at 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, January 14, 1868. Former pupils must return on the following day.

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JOHN ROBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.

December 18, 1867.

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14, W ELLINGTON-STREET, Strand, W.C.—Sanakrit, Arabic, Persian, and the Vernaculars of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, &c., &c., &c.

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For information apply to the Warden at the College, or to the Honorary Secretary, J. H. PATRICK, Esq., at his Chambers, Elm-court, Middle Temple, London.

Q U E E N ' S C O L L E G E I N S T I T U T I O N for LADIES.

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Dr. MARTIN REED receives PUPILS from 6 to 18 years of age.

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The site, at an elevation of 400 feet above the sea, was carefully selected, with the approbation of eminent Physicians, as especially favourable to physical development.

E D U C A T I O N , especially adapted for a Commercial Career, for YOUNG GENTLEMEN.—Director ROE-

LOFFS, of the Commercial Academy at Coblenz-on-the-Rhine, will be in London (Charing Cross Hotel) from the 23rd of Decem-

ber to the 3rd of January, and Parents desirous of having their sons educated under a special direction, may have them

boarded with him, his family, the domestic arrangements of which are

on a most liberal scale, offering a comfortable home.

Every possible care is devoted to the young gentlemen entrusted to his Director.

Roelofs will be happy to furnish the respective Parents

who favour him with a call, with references, as well as an account

of the many young men like himself who have been

taken back with him to Germany on his return, in the beginning of January.

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To the MEMBERS of
THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

Gentlemen.—On behalf of the Committee which has been formed to consider the return, at the next Parliamentary Representative, of Sir JOHN LUBBOCK, F.R.S., Bart., Fellow of the University, we beg again to address you.

The main function of our University being, as we then pointed out, to promote liberal and scientific education apart from all sectarian or other religious宗旨, your action must naturally be directed to the removal of all civil disabilities incurred on account of religious belief, to the vigorous development of national education on a broad basis, and to the active encouragement of Science as an important element of general culture, and of the public welfare.

Sir JOHN LUBBOCK has not only the will but the power essentially to promote these objects in the House of Commons; for, while his intellectual reputation would give weight to his opinions, his ability as a speaker and character as a man of business would obtain him a wide influence among his colleagues, who are exclusively occupied in scientific pursuits. As the exponent of the large and increasing body of scientific men, he would thus take a position in Parliament which the Representative of the only English University granting Degrees in Science might naturally be expected to do. The same considerations, however, which have hitherto urged by various sections of our own body; but in addition Sir JOHN LUBBOCK holds the political opinions which the University justly requires in its representation, which enabled him the hearty support of the whole Liberal Party in the last election.

Himself a distinguished worker in Biological Science, Sir JOHN LUBBOCK not only understands and appreciates the claims of the Medical Profession, but would be able to press them upon the attention of Parliament and of the Nation more independently, and with more effect, actually, than even the most eminent of our Medical Graduates.

In proof of the importance attached to the choice of the University by the most eminent men of science in the kingdom, and of the estimation in which Sir JOHN LUBBOCK's numerous and important contributions to Science are held, we beg to refer you to the appended list of names of gentlemen distinguished in various departments of knowledge, and many of them intimately connected with the University or its Colleges, who have, at our suggestion, formed themselves into a Committee to co-operate with us in securing Sir JOHN LUBBOCK's election.

W. S. SAVORY, M.A. F.R.S., Chairman.
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F. Crisp, LL.B.
J. L. H. Down, M.D.
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James Eccles, B.A.
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Rev. F. W. Farrar, B.A. F.R.S.
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J. Hooper, M.A. LL.B.
W. H. Keen, B.Sc.
Gustav Knecht, B.Sc.
G. W. Knox, B.Sc.
James Henry Lakin, M.B.

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Wilson Saunders, F.R.S.

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Warington Smyth, M.A. F.R.S., Professor of Mineralogy in the Royal School of Mines.

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Alfred R. Wallace, F.R.G.S.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1867.

LITERATURE

CHRISTMAS STORIES.

No Thoroughfare. By Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins. Being the Extra Christmas Number of 'All the Year Round.'

Storm-Bound. Christmas Number of 'Tinsley's Magazine.'

On the Cards: Routledge's *Christmas Annual*. An Entertaining Volume of Christmas Literature.

The Christmas Number of 'The Broadway.'

The Guest-Meal. Being the Christmas Number of 'Once a Week.'

Good Cheer. Being the Christmas Number of 'Good Words.'

Gold, Silver, Lead. A Collection of Original Stories. With numerous Illustrations. Edited by Mrs. Valentine. Warne's *Christmas Annual*.

Nine of Us. Beeton's *Christmas Annual*.

Snow: a Christmas Story. By Lyulph. (Ward, Lock & Tyler.)

The Christmas Number of 'Bou Bells.'

THE times have changed since Mr. Dickens's Christmas stories and the Christmas numbers of the *Illustrated London News* were the only important publications produced in December for the special gratification of adult readers making holiday during the season of good cheer and kindly fellowship and fireside festivities—when even such wretches as workhouse paupers get a plate of plum-pudding and a slice of roast beef. Having created a market for literature adapted to the temper of the time, and the pleasant traditions that make housekeepers busy themselves in the manufacture of mincemeat towards the close of November, the success of our first providers of Christmas tales has brought about a state of things for which scores of clever writers and artistic draughtsmen have reason to be thankful, when they set themselves square with their tradesmen at the opening of the new year. There are croakers abroad who murmur that the dealers who cater for this market are cutting each others' throats with Christmas numbers, and have this season produced twice as much material as they will contrive to sell; but, differing from these desponding gentlemen, we take a brighter view of the prospects of the trade, and have reasons for our hope and belief that none of the ventures to which we here draw attention will prove a losing concern. The demand for such publications is so great, that were they twice their present number, the potent Mr. Smith of the railway-stations and the keepers of our London bookstalls, aided by the booksellers of our country towns, would find no difficulty in distributing them to willing buyers. Let any one who inclines to the other view take up a position on Christmas Eve opposite the bookstall of any one of our chief railway-stations, and see how rapidly the piles of these pleasant papers will disappear, and be replaced by other stupendous piles that, in their turn, will give room to piles no less large, —how nearly every passenger on his way from the ticket-office to the trains will make a purchase at the stall,—how humble folk will spend their pence with deliberation on the packets that, by the reputations of their contributors, or the brilliance of their wrappers, or the piquancy of their illustrations, promise to yield them the most for their money,—and how the rich, not satisfied with 'No Thoroughfare,' which everybody will buy for the sake of

its joint writers, will get "half a dozen of other things as well, just to see what they are made of." Ever and again our watcher will see a ruddy and warmly-clad customer—some cheery City bachelor on his way down to a married friend's house, or a buoyant father with a purse full of money as well as a quiver full of children—lay down his sovereign on the bookstall, and exclaim to one of its busy servitors, "Haigh, make haste; my train is due; I want Christmas numbers—one of everything; if I don't care to read them, the youngsters will." Then let the man on watch remember that just such a scene as he is witnessing is being enacted at every bookstall in each of our London railway-stations,—at every great bookstall on every line throughout the country. Moreover, let him bear in mind that the trade in Christmas numbers is being briskly driven by the stationers of our small provincial towns and petty village-streets; with farmers who seldom spend a shilling on any other kind of light literature; with small tradesmen who, little given to books of any kind save ledgers, have learnt to feel that Christmas without a new story in the house would be like Christmas without a chime of pork in the larder; with mechanics and servant-girls, ay, and even farm labourers whom the schoolmaster—God bless him!—has in these later years endowed with perceptions and tastes that make them prefer the excitement which may be derived for a few halfpence from a book of stories to the more costly and grosser exhilaration which may be bought at the village alehouse. Then must be taken into account the tons upon tons of Christmas numbers that are sent abroad, to America and the colonies, to English families in India and English residents on the Continent.

Such is the demand for this kind of literature that the trade and the public are in no danger of embarrassment from the unprecedented amount of it that has been thrown upon them during the last few weeks. But the case is different with the critic, who finds himself sorely at a loss how to deal with such a bulk of new material. What can we do for their authors and buyers with these ten publications, taken from a pile of similar offerings, which contain not less than 150 distinct literary compositions? 150 tales, essays, poems! Say that we applied what are termed with pleasant vagueness the canons of criticism to each one of these 150 productions, and for this application allowed each contributor an average space of half a column, what would be the result on our readers' patience and the feelings of the two-score young authors who have for the last two months been wondering when we shall notice their maiden productions? How many thanks should we get from the contributors? how many maledictions from the public? —how much space should we have for anything else? The proper person to answer these questions is Mr. Charles J. Mathew's 'Mad Arithmetician,' who sings in 'Routledge's *Christmas Annual*':—

I'm a mad arithmetician, and I live in Bedlam College,
And I'm death on calculation and experimental knowledge.

I've measured all the universe and summed up all creation,
And to benefit the world I now impart my information.

I've sounded with a plumb-bob ev'ry brood of little chickens,

And I've taken with a quadrant all the serials by Dickens;
And, dividing by the census of the parish overseer,
I find the product just amounts to twenty pounds a year.

* * * * *

Take half a dozen babies and divide them with your knife,
Throw in a niece, two uncles, carry one, and add your wife;

Then stir them well together—let them simmer by the fire—

And the dividend's as pleasing as a parent can desire.

One day while looking through my bars and gazing at the sky,
It struck me that a sermon must be heavier than a fly;
So I caught a country clergyman and furnished him with wings,

And he buzzed as well as any fly and ate as many things.
I hauled up in my fishing-net a great railway contractor,
And I hung him on a gibbet with another malefactor;
I then extracted all their steam—exhausting their receivers—
And I brought them back to reason by the aid of two retrievers.

I seized a pair of callipers and nipped a politician,
And I sweated him in blankets till I got him in condition;
Then I rode him for the Derby, in my boots and leather breeches,
And the people said they liked his running better than his speeches.

There's nothing I can't do, within province of humanity;
I can sit out Phelps's 'Manfred'—not that that's a proof
of sanity.
I quite believe in spirits—though it does seem hard to me,
That I'm still confined in Bedlam, while the Davenports go "free."

Mr. Edmund Routledge's 'Christmas Annual' differs from its competitors in its number of comic drawings and comic articles. Having thus done his best to make the public laugh, it only remains for the public to do its best to make him win.

Those who like wholesome and nutritious fare Mr. Mark Lemon entertains with 'Guest-Meal,' of which no one will partake without echoing little Oliver's petition for more; and he is associated in *Once a Week* with Mr. Shirley Brooks, whose welcome name appears in two or three of the other Christmas numbers, and with Mr. Dutton Cook, who tells a capital story in his very best style. Having had the best of fare in 'Guest-Meal,' the reader will soon recover his appetite for prose and verse in 'Good Cheer,' wherein Miss Jean Ingelow sings:—

The snow lies white, and the moon gives light,
I'll out to the freezing mere,
And ease my heart with one little song,
For none will be nigh to hear.
And it's O my love, my love!
And it's O my dear, my dear!

It's of her that I'll sing till the wild woods ring,
When nobody's nigh to hear.

My love is young, she is young, is young,
When she laughs the dimple dips.

We walked in the wind, and her long locks blew
Till sweetly they touched my lips.
And I'll out to the freezing mere,
Where the stiff reeds whistle so low,

And I'll tell my mind to the friendly wind,
Because I have loved her so.

Ay, and she's true, my lady is true!
And that's the best of it all;

And when she blushes my heart so yearns
That tears are ready to fall.

And it's O my love, my love!

And it's O my dear, my dear!

It's of her that I'll sing till the wild woods ring,
When nobody's nigh to hear.

Mrs. Valentine's budget, produced by a numerous bevy of writers, contains much silver, and not a little gold; but save in its title-page, we have not come upon the slightest trace of lead in any part of its composition. Our judgment, therefore, is, that Mrs. Valentine should be credited with proper self-confidence rather than excessive arrogance in so far as concerns her motto, "Whoso chooseth me shall gain what many men desire."

To raise the storm by which he effectually binds his readers, and of which we can testify that it is a kind of storm that one likes to be caught in, Mr. Edmund Yates has called to his assistance the Author of 'Guy Livingstone,' Mr. Shirley Brooks, the Author of 'Archie Lovell,' Mr. Sala, Mr. Charles Collins, Mr. Andrew Halliday and other writers.

'No Thoroughfare' differs from all previous Christmas numbers of *All the Year Round* in being the first of the series in which so little of Mr. Dickens's workmanship is apparent that had it not been for the editorial announcement of its joint authorship, we should not have hesitated to attribute every line and word and thought of it to Mr. Wilkie Collins, whose method is

alike apparent in its design, tone and details. And even with this announcement exercising full influence on our judgment, we are of opinion that the older novelist's part in the work is little more than nominal. Although the author of 'No Name' might well be credited with the origination of its striking title, in our readiness to assign every feature of the story to Mr. Dickens which is not manifestly the deed of his coadjutor, we can believe that the conductor of the serial suggested the words 'No Thoroughfare.' The fundamental incident of the narrative—the confusion of the identities of two babies consigned to the care of the trustees of the Foundling Hospital in Guildford Street—may also be attributed to the novelist-in-chief, who in one of the past Christmas numbers of his serial described the mixing of two babies born on board ship during a violent storm. The story, moreover, contains occasional touches that remind us of Mr. Dickens's pathos and humour—touches that are scarcely in harmony with the rest of the composition; for instance, the scene where Mrs. Goldstraw kisses her dying master whom she nursed long ago in the Foundling Hospital, has an aroma of Mr. Dickens's tenderness. "After an interval he said, in a placid voice, 'Please kiss me, Nurse,' and, it was evident, believed himself to be lying in the old Dormitory. As she had been used to bend over the fatherless and motherless children, Sally bent over the fatherless and motherless man, and put her lips to his forehead, murmuring, 'God bless you!'—'God bless you!' he replied, in the same tone. After another interval, he opened his eyes in his own character, and said, 'Don't move me, Sally, because of what I am going to say; I lie quite easily. I think my time is come. I don't know how it may appear to you, Sally, but—' Insensibility fell upon him for a few minutes; he emerged from it once more. 'I don't know how it may appear to you, Sally, but so it appears to me. When he had thus conscientiously finished his favourite sentence, his time came, and he died.' Again, the extravagant adulation and impudent irony with which M. Obenreizer, the loquacious and villainous Swiss—a villain of Mr. Wilkie Collins's unaided conception—beholds England and the English to George Vendale, reminds us of similar humour in 'Little Dorrit.' 'Survey this English nation,' exclaims this plausible scoundrel, "and behold a tall, clean, plump, and solid people! Look at their cities! What magnificence in their public buildings! What admirable order and propriety in their streets! Admire their laws, combining the eternal principle of justice with the other eternal principle of pounds, shillings and pence; and applying the product to all civil injuries, from an injury to a man's honour to an injury to a man's nose! You have ruined my daughter—pounds, shillings and pence! You have knocked me down with a blow in my face—pounds, shillings and pence! Where was the material prosperity of such a country as that to stop? Obenreizer, projecting himself into the future, failed to see the end of it. Obenreizer's enthusiasm entreated permission to exhale itself, English fashion, in a toast. Here is our modest little dinner over, here is our frugal dessert on the table, and here is the admirer of England conforming to national customs, and making a speech! A toast to your white cliffs of Albion, Mr. Vendale! to your national virtues, your charming climate, and your fascinating women! to your Hearths, to your Homes, to your Habeas Corpus, and to all your other institutions!" This picture of Madame Dor at her knitting, whilst George Vendale is wooing Marguerite at the other side of the room, may have

been inserted by Mr. Dickens in the place where it is found between descriptive passages of a different texture:—"And Madame Dor? Madame Dor behaved like an angel. She never looked round; she never said a word; she went on with Obenreizer's stockings. Pulling each stocking up tight over her left arm, and holding that arm aloft from time to time, to catch the light on her work, there were moments, delicate and indescribable moments, when Madame Dor appeared to be sitting upside down, and contemplating one of her own respectable legs elevated in the air." Mr. Dickens's hand may perhaps be visible in the few telling strokes that put M. Obenreizer's friend and compatriot on the canvas:—"The friend's face was mouldy, and the friend's figure was fat. His age was suggestive of the autumnal period of human life. In the course of the evening he developed two extraordinary capacities. One was a capacity for silence; the other was a capacity for emptying bottles. * * * As for the wine, the eyes of the speechless friend rolled over it, as in solemn ecstasy. Sometimes he said 'Good!' when a bottle came in full; and sometimes he said 'Ah!' when a bottle went out empty—and there his contributions to the gaiety of the evening ended." But whilst in these and the few other passages that remind us of Mr. Dickens's way of exercising his art, there is nothing which might not have been done by his coadjutor, all the rest of the tale is clearly the production of the author of 'The Woman in White.' It is a tale of mystery and crime; a tale belonging to a school of French writers, abounding in complications and intricate contrivances, and totally deficient in the rollicking gaiety and subtle pathos with which Mr. Dickens's earlier Christmas budgets moved their readers alternately to laughter and tears. Its want of these qualities will occasion disappointment to those who buy the story for the sake of the mingled mirth and sadness which past experiences have taught them to anticipate from the perusal of a Christmas number of *All the Year Round*. But in compensation for these defects Mr. Wilkie Collins supplies stronger, though perhaps less wholesome, excitements in the dramatic positions and ingenious devices of a narrative whose artificiality and lack of realism are not felt until the intense interest roused by the grand scene in the pass over the Simplon, where Marguerite rescues her lover from the ice-shelf on which he has fallen beyond the murderous reach of his baffled assailant, subsides towards the close of the story. It would be difficult to speak with excessive praise of the grandeur and terrible force of the scene which closes with George Vendale's rescue. Than this passage, nothing finer can be found in all the pages of its able writer.

History of the Commonwealth of England, from the Death of Charles I. to the Expulsion of the Long Parliament by Cromwell: being omitted Chapters of the History of England. By Andrew Bisset. Vol. II. (Murray.)

THREE years ago we spoke in high terms of the first volume of Mr. Bisset's commentaries on the History of England during the Commonwealth, and we are glad to find in this second volume of criticism the same calm judgment, the same liberal sentiment, the same large insight undiminished. Mr. Bisset's work is hardly a regular history of events, certainly not a picture of things in chronological order; it is rather a series of shrewd and animated conversations on the different ways in which the Commonwealth story has been presented to the public, and the various uses to which, in

practical statesmanship, its many lessons may be applied.

The central figure in this second volume is Robert Blake, the illustrious admiral of the Commonwealth. Mr. Bisset's admiration for this great captain is all but unbounded; he ranks him above all seamen, in either modern or ancient times, except one. We suppose the exception is meant for Nelson; but we think the better opinion is that Blake was the highest man in all our list of sea-captains. We happen to know that such was Lord Dundonald's view. Nelson's time is very near to us; and the political service of his victories is fresh upon our minds. But cool observers of events, who can throw themselves back dramatically into the past, begin to see that with slighter materials Blake achieved greater results than Nelson. When Blake first took command of the Channel fleet, he found himself in front of the great masters of naval warfare. The Dutch had then the largest fleet, the most famous admirals, the most numerous body of mariners in the world. Tromp, De Ruyter, Evertz, and De Witt are all seamen whom envy itself could not refuse to rank in the highest class. These renowned admirals commanded bigger ships, carrying heavier guns, manned more strongly, than anything we had then afloat. But they, one and all, went down before the genius and daring of Robert Blake; the man who, as Clarendon (his enemy) remarked, was the first who invented the plan of fighting in fire and water. Nelson had no such rivals. Poor Villeneuve was hardly a foeman worthy of the hero's steel. French sailors are very different antagonists from the Dutch. In fact, there probably never was a battle like that of Portland, a naval action, in which the fight continued up Channel from dawn to sunset for three successive days. That was a tug of giants, to which the Nile was a mere brilliant play at short-swords. And then what a splendid fight was the attack on Santa Cruz! Gradually, as the story of Robert Blake disengages itself from the political passion, by which all great history is for a time obscured, we think his fame will rise until he is universally recognized as the greatest naval captain on our list.

As a man he was in every way superior to Nelson, his only rival as a sailor.

The whole scheme of English history in this period presents itself to Mr. Bisset's mind as turning mainly on the doings of two great men; internal events grouping themselves about Cromwell, external affairs around Blake. After the end of Charles, the European tyrants sharpened their swords against free England, as they had formerly done, in the League of Cambray, against free Venice. In one week of war that League of Cambray had conquered Venice and imposed its will upon her. The similar league expected to do the same with England; and it is Mr. Bisset's opinion that the tyrants were mainly foiled by the presence in this country of one of those supremely exceptional men, who have power to save nations in their need. That man was Blake. Many writers have indulged in speculations as to what would have been the result of a landing in Kent and Essex by the foreigner. Macaulay has expressed a strong opinion that any soldiers then enrolled would have been cut to pieces on English soil by the victors of Worcester and Dunbar. Mr. Bisset is of another mind; and his argument is worthy to be heard:—

"Of these many enemies, the most formidable to England, from their being maritime powers of the first rank, were the monarchies of France and Spain, and the so-called republic of Holland. While the hostility of the last-named was awakened by a fierce spirit of naval and commercial rivalry, that

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of the two former was excited by the remembrance of many defeats and humiliations, and animated with all the inspiration of hatred. And to the old causes of quarrel that had fitted out the Great Armada for the destruction of the impious and blasphemous heretics who had dared to throw off the Papal supremacy, was now added a new cause—namely, that those heretics, those enemies of God and the Pope, had become regicides, and therefore enemies of God and kings, God's representatives upon earth. Add to all this, that Scotland and Ireland, at the time, stood to England in the relation much more of enemies than of friends or allies, and we shall see that England literally stood alone against the world. Let us also remember that the Kings of Europe at that time possessed three of the greatest generals of modern times, Condé, Montecuculi, and Turenne, any one of whom, if he had effected a landing in England with an army, even the Ironsides and their hitherto invincible leader would undoubtedly have found a far more formidable opponent than King Charles or any of his cavalier captains. And their being prevented from effecting an invasion of England must depend on England having the command of the sea—a result which must depend on her being able to defeat the most powerful fleets, commanded by the greatest admirals, Tromp and Ruyter, that had then ever appeared in the world. * * * The physical circumstances in favour of England were that, provided she prevented invasion from Scotland, the sea, if she was master of it, would protect her from all the world. * * * In addition to the great energy and ability with which the Council of State conducted their naval affairs, Providence sent to their assistance a man whose career, in the conduct of their naval or foreign wars, was as singular as that of Cromwell had been in the conduct of their domestic wars. This man was Robert Blake, the greatest admiral, save one, in the records of the world; and his career was the more singular in this—that though it is usually considered essential to enter the naval profession in boyhood, and though Blake set his foot on deck for the first time as a commander at the age of fifty, he raised in two or three years the naval glory of the English nation to a far greater height than it had ever before attained. The height to which he raised it may be judged from an incident in his last action, the destruction of the Spanish fleet in the harbour of Santa Cruz, in one of the Canary Islands. The Red Cross of England was descried at daybreak from the Spanish galleons, and the well-known red flag, bearing the arms of the Commonwealth of England embroidered in gold, visible at the maintopgallant mast-head of one of the ships, showed that the redoubtful admiral commanded in person. A Dutch captain, who had seen something of the late war, happened to be lying at that moment in the Santa Cruz roadstead with his vessel. When he saw the English admiral's broad pendant, he went straight to the Spanish admiral, and asked his permission to leave the roadstead with his vessel. The Spaniard made light of his fears, saying that with the castles, batteries, and earthworks, in addition to his naval force, the position was impregnable. 'For all this,' said the Dutch captain, 'I am very sure that if Blake is there he will soon be in the midst of you.'—'Well,' replied the Spaniard, 'go if you will, and let Blake come if he dare!' The Dutchman returned to his ship, hoisted sail, and left the place as fast as he could, and thereby escaped the destruction that overtook all that floated within the Bay of Santa Cruz on that fatal morning.

Mr. Bisset has not taken more kindly to Cromwell from his four years of additional thought. He thinks that Cromwell was not justified in the course he took as against the Parliamentary majority. He prefers in every way the noble service and modest attitude of Blake:—

"The career of Cromwell is one which has been trodden times out of number, when the highest prizes of human ambition are in troubled times placed within the reach of genius and valour. The career of Blake is a less common career; but it is also a career less dazzling to the multitude, who

are naturally dazzled by the spectacle of a man raising himself to supreme power. Blake was a Puritan as well as Cromwell; but I do not think that Blake could have quieted his conscience, had he been rapacious, by quoting such texts as, 'He shall be called Mahershala-hash-baz, because he maketh haste to the spoil.' And Cromwell might truly be called Mahershala-hash-baz, if making haste to the spoil entitled a man to that appellation. But though, in the eyes of those who worship the powers of good and evil alike, the genius and valour of Cromwell have cast all other men into the shade, there are still some—and in the course of time there will be more—able to appreciate the genius and valour, joined to the contempt for wealth and all the objects of vulgar ambition, of the great admiral, who has left to after-ages a truly heroic memory and a stainless name. So far from admitting Cromwell's plea for crushing English liberty—I mean constitutionally-regulated liberty—that he was forced to take upon himself the office of a high-constable to preserve the peace among the several parties in the nation, though he professed to approve the government of a single person as little as any, it is, to all who steadily examine the facts, a mere sophistry, or rather a palpable untruth. The Council of State acted the part of high-constable better than he did. The Council of State, indeed, could not command armies as Cromwell could, much less could it command navies as Blake commanded them; but Blake did not make that a reason for setting up as a king on his own account, and throwing England back two centuries in her progress towards good government. When we look calmly at what the Stuarts and Cromwell did, or attempted to do, we are forced to the conclusion that there is less excuse to be made for Cromwell than for the Stuarts."

The whole volume is completed in a fine spirit of appreciation. Mr. Bisset loves his country even more than he loves his heroes, and the thing which he finds it most difficult to forgive, even in the men whom he admires, is the placing of their personal interests above those of their native land.

Curious Myths of the Middle Ages. By S. Baring-Gould. Second Series. (Rivingtons.)

INTERESTING as was Mr. Gould's first series of curious myths, the second surpasses its predecessor both in general interest and ability of treatment. The author, indeed, is sometimes fanciful and overbold in his conclusions; but he conducts us through marvellous ways—ways which he has studied well before he undertook to guide others; and if we do not always acquiesce in his descriptions or arguments, we seldom differ from him without hesitation.

In such a work as Mr. Gould has furnished in the first and second series, we are not merely in the Old World; the author leads us from that into the New, and, taking the myth from the beginning, makes it the companion of the common way, and shows how it has changed with time and circumstance, and how the ideas which were shaped in the prolific and ancient East have grown, blossomed, flowered, fructified, and become as cherished realities now daily about and around us.

When, for instance, the Chapter of the Garter honour the memory of their founder on St. George's Day, they render homage to a possibly once-existent man, whose heroism was rewarded by having applied to him a large portion of heroic romance that had been otherwise applied before his time. In like manner, the probably real Arthur, because of his blamelessness, was clothed in the glories of mythological heroes who had existed before him, and had survived in the popular affection. Before St. George slew his dragon scores of heroes, or gods, beginning with Apollo and the Python, had won eternal

that the hero, the Sun, piercing the Serpent, the storm-cloud, makes flow the pent-up waters, and gives joy and gladness to dejected Earth. Since Muses and earthly women first wept for Tammuz, or Adonis, down to the days in which the legend had passed into the form of St. George dying repeatedly, yet never dead, with women alternately wailing and rejoicing, there is but one and the same signification, representing the different ways by which the sun dies each day. Mr. Gould explains how the ancient myth has been adapted to personages of succeeding times, and how from Adonis there has come a George of Cappadocia; but he has omitted to notice why this hero has come down to us as a "bacon-factor." This epithet was probably invented by those orientals who wished to disparage him, by assigning to him a commercial interest in the most unclean of beasts—in the original view of the case.

If we still have on earth some echoes of the old wailing for Adonis, so have we some remains of the ancient worship of Isis, whose wanderings and companions are matters familiar to most of us. Now the Isis of Egypt is the Hulda of Germany, the great pale lady who sails through the sky at night amid the thousand pure and bright-eyed damsels who attend her. These are the moon and stars. Out of this early myth was born many a graceful and many a blundering superstition. The mystic boat in which Isis, or Hulda, sailed became a symbol so superstitious, that the Church in Christian times refused to tolerate it. Gradually, however, the myth was fitted to fresh heroines and other purposes. It has finally, or so far, subsided into the story of St. Ursula and her eleven thousand bright virgins, who voyaged in celestial boats, came and went hither and thither, and, at last, found an abiding-place at Cologne, where their alleged remains are still worshipped. This worship is really a worship of Isis, coming to us through Holda and Hörsel to the Ursula in whose honour a famous church exists at Cologne. These fables are sifted with praiseworthy care; and Mr. Gould concludes his examination of them by saying, "If the Catholic Church abroad would only purge herself of these, her great eternal doctrines would be embraced by thousands. But the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth have been set on edge."

The Legend of the Cross is described by Mr. Gould as one of the wildest of mediæval fancies. He has forgotten to record one assertion made in connexion with the stories as to the tree of which the Cross was made. He has omitted the aspen, the trembling quality of which is said to be derived from a mysterious consciousness of the purpose to which it was applied on Calvary. Mr. Gould shows—but he is not the first who has made the demonstration—that the cross was a sacred sign long before Christ died upon it. He has no difficulty in believing that it formed a part of primeval religion. He cites very many instances of the sacredness with which it was regarded; and although he does not acquiesce in some of the interpretations of the *Cruis ansata*, or cross within a circle, he states that "the use of the cross as a symbol of life and regeneration, through water, is as widely spread over the world as the belief in the Ark of Noah."

From the grand effect of the lightning which rends rocks and displays the treasures in the caverns of the earth, classical and fairy mythology have alike drawn some of the most striking illustrations. The bird which bore the *Schamir*, the worm or stone which rent the crags, was the storm-cloud carrying the thunderbolts; and thence romance derived the *Sesame*, which opened the hitherto impenetrable caverns; and the hand of glory, a dead hand with its fingers

all ablaze, that points to where riches are buried in the earth, which was at first the forked emblem of the lightning in the hand of Jove himself.

Not unfrequently Mr. Gould goes very far for a solution of his myth, and brings home one that is hardly worth the carriage. Bishop Hatto, in his mouse-tower devoured by the vermin, is reasonably enough accounted for in the locality by the alleged fact that the grain which the monopolizing prelate had stored up there was consumed by mice or rats before he could produce it in market. The speculating bishop was literally "chawed up" by an unexpected enemy and a *coup* which had never entered his commercial imagination. On the other hand, Mr. Gould has collected some very curious information touching human sacrifices, where men were eaten alive by these creatures, also of mice as symbols of souls, and among the Philistines as a symbol of a deity whom they identified with the God of Israel.

In the story of Melusina, the fairy who married a mortal, on condition that he would never presume to look in upon her on a Saturday, we have the romantic form of the old tales of the mermaid and all her interesting family. It will be remembered that the husband of Melusina was so very unwise as to break his bond. He was impudent enough to look through the keyhole while his wife was at her toilette on the prohibited Saturday, when he found that the mother of his children was a mermaid once a week at least! Readers of the early Greek poets will remember how mortals are forbidden to examine too curiously into the doings of the gods, and something of the consequence is perhaps pointed out in the punishment which fell on Melusina's husband, who paid for peeping by the loss of his earthly felicity. The form of the mermaid is, in some cases at least, a symbol of the sun, above the horizon and then below the waters. Mr. Gould quotes some old stories in support of the actual existence of mermaids, the witnesses being persons who did not know a seal or a sea-bear when they saw it. Natural history does make true record of a worm which pierces stone more effectually than the *schamir* or the lightning can rend it; but the stories about, and the Japanese manufacture of, mermaids only attest the prevalence of an idea. They prove no more than that very authentic anecdote of the very respectable merman who rose to a ship's side one Sunday morning, and, touching his hat to the captain on the quarter-deck, politely asked him to lift his anchor: "It's right athwart my street-door," said the merman, "and my family are not able to go to church."

Perhaps the most beautiful of the old myths is the one that tells of the existence of the Fortunate Isles,—a paradise in the west, where peace and joy reign for ever. The idea rests upon the combined desire to believe in and a conviction of the truth of the existence of another world. Man would not willingly let faith in that blessed circumstance depart from him. Every nation has had its dreams as well as its revelation on this matter. Romance and reality have created wondrous future worlds between them, and of these were the Hesperides of mythology and the Avalon or Apple Island of our Arthurian romance. The Crystal Palace of to-day is but a reproduction of the transparent mansion in which dwelt all that had been noble, and where was deposited all that was useful and beautiful. It was no more difficult for a man to believe in a future existence of which he knew nothing, than in his present, of which he knew little more. A sublime sense of religion was at the bottom of the old pagan

idea which looked from this to another and a happier land.

In connexion with this subject, we must remark that the most curious, and also the most questionable, of the conclusions at which Mr. Gould has arrived is one which will surprise the public in general, the dissenters particularly, and the Wesleyans most especially. Our author insists that the religion of Wesleyans and dissenters is in great part a revival of ancient paganism, "which has long been dormant among the English peasantry." These poor people, it seems, believe in the visitation of angels to dying persons, and also in angelic music. He cites hymns in which the restless power of heavenly songs to lead souls to heaven is acknowledged. But it is a part of natural religion of all times and of all people to hear the voice of God in the wind and the thunder. In all sweet sounds and Aeolian strains they catch the echoes of the harmonious skies. The harmony of the spheres is an old and a pleasant idea. To it may be traced the stories of the magic pipers who led away whole populations who were never after heard of. These were but the pipers in the universal Dance of Death. It was a heavenly harp that induced Jack to ascend the bean-stalk to the Titanic mansion in the skies, where lived the ogre "who was once the All-Father till Christianity made a monster of him." In the myths connected with magic music Mr. Gould has overlooked the story current in Picardy touching the "Bridal of Ferques," which is a further illustration of an idea which is as old as Apollo and Orpheus, and which has changed its solemn for a somewhat comic aspect in modern times. The dissenters, according to Mr. Gould, have revived the old paganism, but we rather believe that a ready and appreciative ear for heavenly music has never been wanting on earth since men had hearts to feel and ears to hear.

So with regard to the Celtic fable of the land beyond the sea, Mr. Gould seems very sorry to find it engrafted in popular religion in England. The dissenters are, in his eyes, only another sort of Druids. A Sunday School Union hymn says—

Shall we meet beyond the river,
Where the surges cease to roll,
Where in all the bright Forever
Sorrow ne'er shall press the soul?

To talk of that harbour where the last anchor may be cast near celestial shores, to be wafted by the breath of Heaven's grace to the sinless port, and to sing the song of content in the Happy Land with the children of gladness, is to hang on to the mantle of Druidism. Mr. Gould is satisfied that "we make a mistake in considering the Dissent of England, . . . especially where the Celtic element is strong, as a form of Christianity. It is radically different; its framework and nerve are of ancient British origin, passing itself off as a spiritual Christianity." Thus, Mr. Spurgeon may be not a Particular Baptist, but an Ancient Druid, whose goings out and comings in and general doings should be looked after during the coming season of mistletoe.

The popular idea that the form of angels will be that worn in heaven by those who have been children of earth, Mr. Gould simply puts his heel upon as an absurdity which has no authority whatever in Scripture. That the soul transmigrates to bliss immediately on leaving the body, is another article which is to be found only in the popular fanciful creed. It is very ancient, and therefore interesting; "but Christian it is not." That there are angel forms at all, or that we have any authority for imagining them, Mr. Gould doubts, if not denies, altogether.

When Mlle. Schneider, as *La belle Hélène*,

looks at the picture of the Swan, bequeathed to her by Leda, and says, "Voilà le portrait de Papa," she is the most modern circulator of one of the oldest of myths. Leda and the Swan are not a semi-heroic nymph and an Olympian Jove. There is nothing sensual or sensuous in the story, except in the gloss which man has put upon one of the simplest of truths adored by one of the most poetical of illustrations. Zeus is the Heaven above; clothed in swan-shape, he is merely enveloped in mist, with which he embraces the probable Earth-mother, fair Leda. So, the Apsaras, *water-goers*, of the Vedas, were the fleecy clouds which man likened to swans. The Muses are their representatives, and they, accordingly, have swans as their symbols. In the heavens which have furnished so many brilliant unrealities, covering truth to man, and where the clouds have been seen to take more shapes than Polonius was puzzled with, Mr. Gould is inclined to find the modern idea of angel hosts. "Our delineations of angels," he says, "in flowing white robes, with large pinions, are borrowed from the later Greek and Roman representations of Victory; but were not these figures—half bird, half woman—derived from the Apsaras of the Vedas, who were but the fleecy clouds supposed in the ages of man's simplicity to be celestial swans?"

Remorselessly does the author proceed, not to destroy our new gods, but to point out that they are but old ones with new names. Men of all churches have had a pious affection for the old romance of the Sang-reel,—the blood which the lance drew on the cross, and which Joseph of Arimathea received into the dish into which the Saviour put his hand at the Last Supper. That relic of all that was holy, which was kept in the holiest keeping, which disappeared when impurity approached it, and which holiest knights went in search of,—it is all, we are told, a Druidic mystery, first adapted to Christianity by a British hermit in the eighth century. All that Mr. Gould writes on this subject is of exceeding interest. He further says that a careful study of the subject will convince inquirers that "under the name of Methodism we have the old Druidic religion still alive, energetic, and possibly more vigorous than it was when it exercised a spiritual supremacy over the whole of Britain." We have gone through a series of adaptations to Christianity, it would appear, without radically affecting the old system, and the Rev. Morley Punshon is the most illustrious of the Bardic chiefs!

Female Characters of Goethe. From the Original Drawings by William Kaulbach. With Explanatory Text by G. H. Lewes. (Trübner & Co.)

Vivien.—Guinevere. By Alfred Tennyson. Illustrated by Gustave Doré. (Moxon & Co.) ONE of the noblest books produced this year is the volume containing Kaulbach's illustrations of the female characters in Goethe. Wide differences of opinion may be held as to the merits of Kaulbach's pictures as true exhibitions of Goethe's mind, without taking away either the value or the interest of this book. It may be Goethe; it may not be Goethe; but when all is said, it is the work of a great painter,—the interpretation put by an artist in pigments on the labour of an artist in words. It is the happy fortune of books like the present, that, while they come out in a certain city in a certain year, they have no particular relation to time and place. They belong by their quality to all times and places. The public passion felt in Goethe and his creations is not a thing to pass away; nor will the interest in Kaulbach, as the foremost man in the revival of German

Art, be lessened. Goethe is drawn by a poor. One known Gretchen hardly a circle of perhaps that of Affinitie wide a variety worker while external either or that inner life for figure with an thought not that racter; creation compare. Ordinary picture two draw one fat innocent has drawn when this is series. just a her story careful Manding in stagey sition. The school children artificial children who i and ha bit of less ge is a h an ill which fancy; a visi girl; heath plants with This Mr. little work book one is but poet, to th and is a publ

Art, be likely to pass away. People who would not care to have this series as a memorial of Goethe may like to possess it as a memorial of Kaulbach.

The gallery of female figures drawn by Goethe is not large. Compared with the gallery drawn by Shakspeare, it is very small and very poor. Only two of his poetic females are widely known and universally admired—those of Gretchen and Mignon. Lotte and Doroté are hardly anything but names beyond a narrow circle of German critics. The figure which is perhaps the noblest in this whole gallery—that of Otilie, in the strange story of *The Affinities*—is scarcely known by name. How wide a contrast to the range, the colour, the variety of Shakspeare! Goethe was mainly a worker in the mines of thought and sentiment; while Shakspeare was mainly a painter of external nature. Of course it is not suggested either that the German poet was nature-blind, or that the English poet was a stranger to the inner life. Goethe had an eye for scenery and for figures; and Shakspeare could unravel with an awful dexterity the tangled web of thought. But Goethe's highest faculty was not that of an observer and painter of character; hence the number of his separate creations is, for a man of his enormous powers, comparatively small.

Ordinary persons will turn at once to the pictures of Margaret, of whom Kaulbach made two drawings. Gounod's opera has made every one familiar with the German peasant-girl, so innocent, so loving, and so wretched. Kaulbach has drawn her as she is entering the church, when seen for the first time by Faust; and this is probably the finest picture in the whole series. Gretchen is very fair, very tender, and just a little coquettish; all the possibilities of her story lie in this exquisite face. It has been carefully, and even lustrosly, engraved by E. Mandel. The second picture, of Margaret kneeling in the archway before the Virgin, is more stagey; but it is very effective, and the composition is very good. It is engraved by H. Sachs. The subject for Mignon is badly chosen, so far as Mignon herself is concerned. It is the school-scene, in which she is singing to the children. Sitting on the edge of a table with artificial wings is not very dignified; but the children are capital. The little lad in the corner, who is evidently saying it is rank nonsense, and he would like to go and play marbles, is a bit of character worthy of Faed. Charlotte is less good; and Werther's figure in the doorway is a head too tall. Among the lighter work is an illustration of Goethe's fancy of the rosebud, which is charming. Kaulbach has to paint a fancy, and a painter must put his thought into a visible shape. The Little Rose is a pretty girl; the boy who sees her blowing on the heath is a shepherd-boy. The sheep, the wild plants, the old boundary-stone, are all given with a nice suggestion of the poetic intent. This plate is also engraved by Sachs.

Mr. G. H. Lewes has supplied a few notes, little more than quotations from the poet's works. Little else, indeed, was wanted. The book is published, we believe, in three editions: one in London, one in Paris, one in Munich; but the work is thoroughly German, since poet, sketcher, engravers, publishers, all belong to the Fatherland. It was a large enterprise, and the way in which it has been carried out is a credit to Mr. Bruckmann, the Bavarian publisher.

M. Gustave Doré's illustrations to certain of Mr. Tennyson's 'Idyls' make a very showy and splendid volume; one that will create for itself, and on good grounds, a world of admirers. In breadth of feeling, in power of suggestion, these

drawings have few equals in the productions of our living schools. They have a massiveness, a fancy, an invention beyond the attainment of any other brush than M. Doré's. The point on which adverse criticism may be expected to dwell will have very little reference to the art displayed. This adverse criticism will attack the motive. It will say, and truly say, that these magnificent drawings are not illustrations of 'Vivien' and 'Guinevere' at all. They are independent studies, and have only a loose connexion with the 'Idyls.' They have neither the scenery nor the sentiment of Mr. Tennyson; and we can imagine the poet being utterly surprised to see in what strange shape the beings of his mind could appear to another eye. Almost any drawing in the series from first to last will serve to indicate our meaning. Look at the last, for example. It is a cloistered scene; exceedingly French, and certainly dramatic in its way. But no such cloister as M. Doré has sketched could have been found in the times of Arthur. The sentiment, like the architecture, is also rich and mediæval where it should have been simple and Arthurian. We suspect, indeed, that M. Doré has never read Tennyson, and never thought of Tennyson while engaged upon this work. He has taken, we suspect, his materials from the middle-age romances of Arthur, which, as every one knows, are steeped in the superstitious sentiment of their age. It is altogether different with the 'Idyls,' which are dramatically, and with wonderful art, thrown back into the elder time.

The utmost that can be said is, that the artist has considered his author as a point of departure for a series of weird and pictorial suggestions of forest glade, of broken shore, of rocky height. In these things M. Doré is positively grand. When he quits this province of poetic landscape he comes to the ground. His groups of figures are commonly very poor. He cannot tell a story without introducing stage effects, and stage effects are foreign to the genius of these 'Idyls.' The drawing of Guinevere and the Novice on the stone terrace is almost comic in its extravagance. In many of these plates the effects are forced by size; stars being made as big as moons, birds as large as men's heads.

Still, when the critical spirit has said all, this book is a splendid book; incongruous, incomplete, yet combining in one work the labours of two great and original minds.

NEW NOVELS.

A Hero's Work. By Mrs. Duffus Hardy. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

THE title of this powerful novel is a brand of sarcasm that consumes the frippery of stars and ribbons with which society distinguishes as fit objects of hero-worship men whose selfishness and cruelty deserve abhorrence. Not that Archie Dundas is altogether despicable or devoid of admirable qualities. Brave as a lion on the field of battle, he signalizes himself in the Crimea by exploits that make his name a household word for soldierly courage, and on his return to England perpetrates the work for which the writer holds him up to the disdain that ought to fall on men who, in the wantonness of desire, destroy credulous women. The victim of his arts is a wretched girl, of gentle birth and hitherto untarnished fame, who is brought under his influence by circumstances that commend her to the reader's sympathies; and the mode in which Archie triumphs over her sense of right, that is weakened by no natural disposition towards evil on her part, places his crime beyond the reach of palliation. Every condition that can render seduc-

tion revolting is a feature of the case. On the eve of his marriage with Lena Carlton, whom he loves passionately, this Major Dundas, in addition to the blessings of social repute and professional advancement, is fortunate in the assurance that he will soon be a triumphant and idolized husband, when Adrienne de Fontaine, a girl whom he has known and admired in her brighter days, is blown across his path by one of those gusts of adversity which are continually striking weak women to the earth. Forthwith he determines to amuse himself during the interval that must elapse before his marriage by making the miserable girl his mistress. That his crime may lack no element of horror, his victim is an old and beloved friend of the woman who is about to become his wife, and the story demonstrates that his triumph over Adrienne would not have been achieved had it not been for her grateful confidence in the generosity and heroism of a man whom the world was extolling as a model of chivalric nobility. In showing how the girl fell under her betrayer's feet, and paid the penalty of her weakness in the shame that surpasses all other shame, Mrs. Hardy works with such result that if she had allowed her "hero" to succeed in the other part of his project, and marry Lena at the very moment of Adrienne's sharpest sorrow, we should have closed the book in sheer inability to persevere in the perusal of so revolting a story. But Mrs. Hardy is too clever an artist to inflict pain that would set the reader in arms against her book as well as its villain, and hinder her in her attempt to induce society to reconsider and amend its mode of dealing with the evil and evil-doers to which her narrative draws attention. At the last moment Lena learns the story of her lover's wickedness; and though she eventually becomes his wife, their marriage does not take place until he has rendered all possible atonement to the victim of his selfish passion, and has proved the genuineness of his contrition during a long period of banishment from her society.

But though we can render tribute to the artistic excellence and sound morality of Mrs. Hardy's story, it is not without points on which we are at issue with her. Whilst holding with her that the sin of which Major Dundas is guilty seldom meets with adequate punishment, and that its omission from the list of punishable crimes is a glaring defect of our penal system, we think she underrates the abhorrence with which it is regarded by ordinary Englishmen. The crime is by no means so frequent as she seems to imagine; and though many facts may seem to countenance her unfavourable view of masculine morality, we can assure her that perfidy towards women encounters a more general and decided reprobation from the average of mere worldlings than she would have her readers think. "It is strange," she remarks, "that some men who have a strict regard for the code of honour in their relation with the world and with each other, are most mean and dishonourable when women are concerned. They will accept the rich flowers of her life, and give her thorns in return; repay trust with treachery, truth with falsehood; take the pure gold of life, and give back a brazen counterfeit; exchange false looks, false words, perhaps false oaths, for the unstained purity of a virgin soul." Our experience of the world and of men of various degrees of sensitiveness is directly at variance with this view. Even in the clubs—where some people imagine that woman's honour is regarded very much as it was regarded by the courtiers of the Restoration—he would find himself more or less shunned by all persons cognizant of his conduct. We speak within

bounds of moderation when we say that no man dependent on social opinion for his means of subsistence could perpetrate Major Dundas's crime under circumstances of similar aggravation, and on his exposure escape a punishment that would be tantamount to utter worldly ruin. That in a great majority of the cases, where man is said to triumph and woman unquestionably falls, the latter suffers much more for her folly than the former for his share in their joint sin, there can be no question. But where the male offender escapes his due share of such inadequate punishment as is at the present time assigned by social opinion to his offence, his immunity is due to other causes than social indifference. The proofs of his crime are sometimes insufficient, and therefore, like other criminals, he escapes the merited sentence through defective evidence. Again, cases could be pointed to where the crime has been proved, and yet the criminal, after receiving sentence and undergoing a term of punishment, has rehabilitated himself in the world's regard, and has been allowed to resume the position of a respectable and honourable member of society.

Apart from the ability with which Mrs. Duffus Hardy discusses what is emphatically a woman's question, 'A Hero's Work' is an interesting and well-wrought novel. Lawrence Carlton, the rector's ne'er-do-well son, who closes honourably an ignoble life, is skilfully put into contrast against the faulty hero who ultimately marries Lena. Mrs. Carlton, the rector's second wife, who, unlike the conventional stepmother of romance, is the complete mother of her adopted children, and Dr. Sterndale are excellent pieces of portraiture. The book also abounds in dramatic positions, which are powerful and thoroughly artistic, with the exception of the wedding-scene, which is harshly sensational. Madame De Fontaine clipping off Adrienne's hair, Lawrence Carlton surprised by his stepmother in the act of rifling his father's desk, Dr. Sterndale finding himself required to perform a perilous operation on the patient to whom he is heir-apparent, Adrienne's mute agony on discovering her betrayer's falseness, and Lena's dismissal of Archie Dundas, are points of the story at which Mrs. Hardy puts forth her power with admirable effect.

Lord Ulswater. By the Author of 'Lord Lynn's Wife.' 3 vols. (Bentley.)

THIS is a story with a vengeance, both in a literal and a colloquial sense; what the Marquess would describe to Dick Swiveller as "a one-er." From four to five murders for certain, besides numerous others more or less clearly hinted at, several sudden deaths, a handful of robberies, a diabolical nobleman, honest thieves, and excitements of all kinds are made up into a sort of mince-pie of a tale, which to lovers of that kind of book will be, no doubt, a treat, but to us is too rich to be pleasing.

The whole novel, in fact, is such a mass of wild improbabilities as to become perfectly ridiculous; and how any author of repute could condescend to write such rubbish is to us surprising. Not content with making the general story unnatural, the author is careful to make one or two of the characters perfectly inhuman. Lord Ulswater for example, the hero, has murdered his elder brother, and imagines he has murdered his nephew, at the opening of the book. These murders were perpetrated apparently with the most laughable ease and in the most open manner, for the noble lord has employed three agents to perpetrate them, who of course all hold him, in consequence, in their power; though what parts the three people took in the murders, or why so many persons were neces-

sary, does not appear. These crimes, however, have by no means made the peer morose or gloomy, either in nature or appearance. On the contrary, he is introduced to us as a perfect Apollo in figure and face, charming every eye with his noble appearance, and attracting all hearts by the laughing grace of his light blue eye. He is of course the best speaker in the House of Lords, and the great hope of his party; he belongs to all the best clubs of London, and is, in fact, the foremost man of his day. Added to all this, his strength beats even Guy Livingstone's, which is saying a great deal. Among other feats performed by him in the course of the tale, he holds a fat heavy man out of window with one arm till the victim becomes faint and sick, and then lifts him back into the room with equal ease, and drops him helpless on a sofa; and when the poor fellow recovers, he sees Lord Ulswater standing over him smiling. Another still more astounding exhibition of power occurs in the Lord's encounter with a gigantic robber called "Bendigo Bill," supposed to be the strongest thief of the time. "Enthusiastic critics in Australia had declared that Bendigo Bill's hug was as the hug of a bear. Perhaps it was so; but to what could be likened the slow, pliant, resistless pressure of those arms that were now thrown around the robber's sturdy frame?" Surely to nothing so much as the gradual tightening and closing of the striped folds of some huge serpent, python or boa, enfolding its prey." Not to prolong the agony, we may say that this grasp is tightened "till it seemed as if ribs and breastbone must be crushed together"; and then Bendigo Bill observes, with fear, that there was "no pity, no anger in those bright eyes of his antagonist; no frown on that broad, white brow; and the firm, clean-cut lips were as fixed as if they had been of marble": and what was certainly even more awe-striking, not to say miraculous, "Lord Ulswater's breath came as regularly as ever, that the colour in his cheek was scarcely deepened, and that he seemed able to crush his enemy, body and bones, upon his own breast, as if that breast had been an iron anvil."

The reader will not be surprised to hear that this torture at last becomes too much for poor Bendigo Bill, who faints; but we imagine he will be slightly astonished, as we were, on finding out that this treatment turns Bendigo Bill from a dire enemy to a most devoted slave and adherent of his conqueror. But so it is, and we may remark that to gratify his new master, the ruffian murders one of the three agents previously alluded to. To conclude our sketch of the hero, we have only to observe that he strangles with his own hands a beautiful woman who had been his mistress, and was one of the agents in the removal of the nephew, because it turns out that, instead of absolutely killing the child, she had simply taken it away and brought it up in ignorance of its parentage at a private school; though how this was done, of course is not told: and just as all his enemies seem done for, a railway accident occurs, which finally closes the career of this marvellous hero.

The other people in the book are just as astonishing as Lord Ulswater, but we have neither time nor patience to describe them.

If the author means this tale as a joke, or as a kind of satire on the popular novels of the day, we must acknowledge the intention is good, though the execution is rather feeble; but if it is seriously intended to amuse or entertain the novel-reading public, all we can hope, in kindness to the author, and as some sort of excuse for his ability and judgment, is, that the book has been written with a charitable intention of amusing the weak-minded and the imbecile. If this be so, we wish it a large circulation.

Charlotte Burney: a Novel. By K. S. Macquoid. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

THE ingenuity of the author of this book is certainly very great, when he contrives to fill three volumes with a tale that might well be told in two pages. Of course everybody could perform this feat by writing nonsense, but we are bound to say Mr. Macquoid does not do that, and therein consists his ingenuity. To gentlemen this tale will probably appear uninteresting and weak; but ladies, we should imagine, as a rule, will rather admire it. This is easily explained when we state that the whole story is about the loves of a pretty young lady and a nice-looking gentleman, who are very much devoted to each other, but are continually being separated and estranged and made miserable by the most trivial circumstances, which prevent their love terminating in as speedy a marriage as one would wish. These young people fall in love at the beginning of the first volume, but only marry at the end of the third, and the whole interest of the novel arises from the numerous incidents that are continually occurring to stop a mutual confession of love just when it appears inevitable.

We have only three remarks to make about 'Charlotte Burney,' beyond observing that the writing is unaffected, and the book generally free from very grave faults. The first observation arises from the surprise we experienced, when reading the tale, that two people could ever be such fools as to let imaginary grievances and ideas exercise the influence over them that they do here; which leads us to ask the author whether he could not devise a few rather more probable and weighty causes for the temporary separation of two lovers; and also to suggest the benefit that accrues to a novel-writer, and his readers, when the novel contains a slightly more exciting narrative for the author to expend his powers on, than we see here. Secondly, we feel constrained to remark that all the characters, with the exception of the hero and heroine, are most depressingly commonplace and wearisome. Lastly, we may mention that history is a very good study in its way, but that a reader is hardly pleased at finding a large part of his novel filled with extracts from a child's History of England; so we advise the author not to allow his characters in future, as they walk through the streets of London, to number off, as it were, the different important personages who have lived in the streets through which they pass; or, at any rate, let them be contented with mentioning the names, without appending an epitome of the life of each. If Mr. Macquoid insists on instructing his readers, he may do it by footnotes referring to the books from which he obtained his information. This will effect his object and spare his readers.

A Book about Dominies; being the Reflections and Recollections of a Member of the Profession. (Edinburgh, Nimmo.)

In true dominie fashion, the writer of the work before us heads his first chapter with a Latin quotation. Nobody will quarrel with him for this; but we confess we were rather taken aback to see a familiar passage of Sallust attributed to Cicero by one who professed to have received an expensive education at a public school, and to have been for many years engaged in teaching Latin and Greek at "a good school, partly a public and partly a private institution." We are bound, however, to confess that the unfavourable impression produced by this unfortunate slip at the outset was completely counteracted by our perusal of what followed, which proved far more deserving of

attention. I "a series upon a work of comparative project, their friends even the volume they will It contains sense a forcible of racy opinion and do frank and full to see are cut evident from his other it does not or social subjects with one of his characters. He is likely too fond be grave and often live. Like high office, &c. But even the clergy, glancing homage He repeats with what complain stand him Let a son faithful vast dear majority not fail respect, pupils, us sever a club for dinner etc. to raise jecting nation can what he Yet sur dominies is and legal plan for a curious dominies more highly said, "I dominies ridiculous teachers highly. It is against which do He stout system, descriptive which he nates " by love rienced

attention than we had thus been led to anticipate. In the words of the author, the book is "a series of unconnected and egotistical essays upon a subject interesting to few,—the life and work of a schoolmaster." If there are comparatively few who take an interest in the subject, the teachers themselves, to say nothing of their friends, now form a numerous class; and even the public in general who look into this volume will find it such pleasant reading that they will not be satisfied without finishing it. It contains an abundance of shrewd common sense and healthy sentiment, expressed in forcible and pointed language, with a good deal of racy humour. The Dominie has very decided opinions of his own on a variety of subjects, and does not scruple to utter them with a frankness and freedom which may be distasteful to some strait-laced people whose notions are cut and dried after a narrow type. Though evidently a citizen of Edinburgh—as we gather from his use of the *shall* and *will* and sundry other indications,—he is no sabbatarian, and does not set a high value upon either sermons or social essays. Yet he writes on religious subjects with a genuine earnestness that reminds one of Dr. Arnold, whose vigorous manliness of character he seems to possess in no small degree. He is lighthearted and cheery, perhaps a little too fond of a sort of slangy phraseology, but can be grave and even pathetic at times, while he is often eloquent, and never dull—altogether a very lively and agreeable talker.

Like most of his class, our friend has a high opinion of himself, and magnifies his office, which he thinks unduly depreciated. But even his self-conceit is amiable and amusing, though not unalloyed with jealousy of the clergy, at whom he is every now and then glancing, apparently because they receive more homage from society than is paid to his order. He repeatedly complains of the want of respect with which schoolmasters are treated. We think it is a great mistake to indulge in such complaints; certainly that is not the way to stand higher in the estimation of the public. Let a schoolmaster or teacher only do his duty faithfully—which cannot be done without a vast deal more painstaking drudgery than the majority are willing to undergo,—and he will not fail to receive gratifying expressions of respect, and even regard, from both parents and pupils. This grumbling Dominie himself tells us several of his former pupils have united into a club for the purpose of entertaining him at dinner every year. He objects to the attempt to raise the social position of teachers by subjecting them to examination, because no examination can test a man's power of communicating what he knows or of maintaining discipline. Yet surely the necessity of passing examinations is one reason why the clerical, medical and legal professions rank so high. His own plan for elevating the status of the teacher is a curious one: "If people were to pay their dominies better, I am certain they would think more highly of them." He should rather have said, "If people thought more highly of their dominies, they would pay them better." It is ridiculous to suppose that people will pay teachers better in order to respect them more highly.

It is natural for an old stager to protest against the sentimental degeneracy of an age which does not tolerate corporal punishment. He stoutly stands up for the old flogging system, and devotes an entire chapter to a description and history of the leather strap which he employs for the purpose, and designates "Lion." He says he cannot rule boys by love alone, without fear. So far most experienced teachers will agree with him, and,

indeed, nearly all who have any practical knowledge of what boys are. The only point in dispute is, whether flogging is the best mode of awakening fear. Our author says:—"If I set a boy a hundred lines to write, he very likely is thinking what a horrid beast I am all the time he is writing them; but if I give him a thrashing, he looks upon me as a machine appointed for the purpose, and feels no more spate against me than against the slide on which he has fallen and bumped his little head." We cannot conceive why the boy should regard the master as a mere machine in one case any more than in the other, nor do we for a moment believe such an idea ever enters his head. The Dominie says, though the pain inflicted by his "Lion" is sharp, it is of short duration, and soon forgotten, which would seem rather an argument against its use than a recommendation. Surely a punishment, to be effectual, ought to be lasting in its influence; and on this account, a task involving labour of some duration may reasonably be preferred, especially if it be of such a nature as to be a means of mental, no less than moral, improvement, even though it involves more trouble to the master. The worst of flogging is, that if it has to be often repeated, which is not uncommonly the case, it not only fails to produce any good effect, but has a tendency to blunt all the finer sensibilities of the boy's nature and brutalize his character. No boys are so unmanageable and incurable as those who have been continually under the lash till they have got accustomed and hardened to it.

Our author gives a graphic account of how he became a dominie, the difficulties and vexations to which the dominie is subject, and the characters of some of his pupils, both past and present. He has also an amusing chapter on other dominies, several varieties of whom he sketches with vivid force, both as they are represented in works of fiction and as he has found them in actual life. On a number of other subjects more or less connected with his personal history and profession, he speaks in such a way as to excite interest and command respect.

Calendar of State Papers, Foreign Series, of the Reign of Elizabeth, 1562. Preserved in the State Paper Department of Her Majesty's Public Record Office. Edited by Joseph Stevenson. (Longmans & Co.)

WHEN Mr. Stevenson's last 'Calendar' came under our notice, we took occasion to censure the editor for overstepping the limits of an editor's duty, by making comments on some of the papers, in support or in depreciation of their contents. On opening the present volume, we were accordingly gratified to find Mr. Stevenson remarking that in calendaring the papers contained in it, he had refrained from analyzing motives or declaring inferences, leaving it to the reader to form his own estimate of the events recorded in the following pages." We were at once prepared to approve the discretion and admire the candour of Mr. Stevenson; but our approval and admiration became somewhat modified when we found that that gentleman had followed the better course, because he could not help himself. On a flyleaf the following significant paragraph, signed "Romilly," explains the whole matter:—"The editors of Calendars published under the direction of the Master of the Rolls are requested to confine any prefatory remarks they may consider necessary to prefix to their volumes to an explanation of the Papers therein contained." We have, therefore, to thank Lord Romilly, and not the editor, for a certain wise

reticence which distinguishes Mr. Stevenson on the present occasion. No one can doubt the wisdom of the request made by the Master of the Rolls who compares Mr. Stevenson's present with his last preface.

With congratulations to all parties concerned, we turn to the contents of the volume, and have only praise to award to the editor. The book is rich in documents which illustrate Elizabeth's policy towards France. Few of them can be said to be "dry," for they are often relieved by a sly, or far-sighted comment, or pleasant anecdote, at the hands of the writer of the despatch. The papers referring to Germany and Italy are less interesting; those written from Spain and Portugal, especially the former, are as full of picturesque details as of politics. Of Ireland there is some small but characteristic matter. Of Scotland, of Mary Stuart and the Lennoxes (all, of course, "foreign," in the sense of not being "English"), there is much that is new, and of singular interest and importance. The *précis* of each paper is given in a way to show how well the editor understands and exercises the use and power of condensation.

The political papers may be referred to the patient examination of the student of history. The general reader will more readily turn to illustrations of manners and social life. One illustration presents itself in that unlucky personage, Don Carlos, who, never over-steady on his legs, is here described by Challoner (Ambassador in Spain) to Cecil, as having tumbled down stairs, broken his head, and as being then at the point of death, chiefly through the contrary opinions, and consequent neutralized practice, of his numerous physicians. Challoner proclaims them all as "bunglers." They let the moody young Prince's wound heal so soon that the injured bone beneath "putrefied." He may yet get well, says Challoner, but "it will axe about six weeks space to heal him thoroughly;" adding, "his hurt is upon the top of his noddle, sideways, as he slid down the stairs." Challoner, in good old-fashioned Saxon words, describes such court scenes while this life hung in the balance as even the exclusive readers of court history are not very familiar with. He may trip at a French-derived word, and call a thing "owltragiouſ," but he is sounder on his legs than the Prince was in his "noddle." Erysipelas came on. Christians, Jews, and Infidels came in with their charms. Regular practitioners made the sad matter sadder. The King, expecting his son's death, was ready to gallop off from a dead body. Every soul was busy with his mourning and the fashion of it. All at once, the infallible doctor was thought of and sent for. "The corpse of a dead friar, now for his miracles accounted a saint, named Fray Diego de Alcala, was brought to the Prince and laid all night in bed by him." As Challoner, the English Ambassador, might say, we "axe" if the idea of such an "owltragiouſ" style of practice would *now* enter anybody's "noddle"? Three centuries ago, the Spanish Prince was restored after undergoing it; but how far the *proper* is in relation to the *post*, we leave to doctors to determine.

In France, we find a liveliness of another character. Questions of religion were the then present difficulty; but these were treated by "a very great personage of no small authority at this court," writes our Ambassador, Throckmorton, referring probably to the King, in a way that must move to ecstasy those remarkable gentlemen who have recently declared that the Pope has an undoubted right, nay, is bound by duty to *punish* all heretical sovereigns,—and a terrible extremity is shadowed in that word "punish." The "very great personage's"

opinion was, that all adversaries of Rome, from those on thrones to those in the highways, "must be destroyed by hook or by crook, and then," said the amiable personage, "there will be order and quietness."

This was outspoken; but there were as significant things as words at the French court. When a courtier once remarked to our envoy, Smith, that things would go well, since the Queen Mother had smiled on giving assurance to that effect, Smith interpreted the smile in quite another sense, as, in that august lady, he had always seen mischief come of such graciousness.

We will note here an additional proof to what we gave on a former occasion of how little French was spoken at the Tudor Court. Communications to that court were made in Latin, not because it was the diplomatic language, but "because of the uncertain knowledge of the French tongue in any natural Englishman."

The samples of Irish manners afforded by this volume we have called "characteristic," and we may apply the same term to England's treatment in the matter. Desmond, as if he were an Irish trading-patriot, "does not profess disobedience," but practises it. The English government were culpably lenient to him. "His faults are but peccadilloes," writes Cecil, with grim humour, "making war when he lists; burning towns with men, women and children; keeping of manifest pirates, after warning given to him;" yet all "these would have been pardoned if he had asked for it: no extremity will be used unless his folly provokes such." But "extremity" against this wholesale assassin would have been cried down by himself and friends as injustice to Ireland.

The Scots had quite another method of dealing with evil-doers. We meet here with the Earl of Mar capturing a horde of thieves at Hawick. They had done on a small scale what Desmond had done wholesale. Out of thirty-three tried and condemned, "twenty-two were presently drowned there, for lack of trees and halters;" the rest were hanged at the earliest convenience, and "the example hereof," writes Randolph, "is very good." One of the most curious communications made by Randolph refers to a hitherto unknown procedure of annoyance towards Mary Stuart, exercised by the ignoble among her adversaries. A Captain Hepburn, going up to the Queen, walking in a garden with Sir Henry Sidney, presented her a paper and withdrew. She handed it to Sidney, but it was first opened subsequently by the Earl of Mar, who "saw there written four as shameful and ribald verses as any devilish wit could invent." A pen and ink drawing was attached to it, by way of illustration, which was a million times more horribly offensive than the lines. How the Queen could have been informed of, or have looked upon either, is perfectly inconceivable; but she must have done both, or she could not have been so grieved lest the dirty ruffian's audacity should induce Sir Henry and the gentlemen with him to entertain erroneous opinions of herself. At another time we find the Queen merry enough, repenting nothing, says Randolph, except "that she was not a man, to know what life it was to lie all night in the fields, or to walk on the causeway with a jack and knapschalle, a Glasgow buckler, and a broadsword." She saw the joyous side of life in the camp. Elizabeth's troops had a sober teaching. Among the instructions for the conduct of her soldiers at Newhaven, they are told that, "On their arrival in the market-place or church, they shall give thanks to God," that they shall be courteous to the French (this Newhaven is in Normandy), and that "no

soldier shall keep any woman on pain . . ." Mr. Stevenson, or the mutilated manuscript, does not say of what. We may add that, with care for morals abroad, there was a better "practice" against bodily ills at home, than we usually give the doctors of those times credit for. The small-pox was carrying off Duchesses and Countesses as well as the Mauds and Dorotheas. But this was not the mulled-wine, scarlet-cloth, huge fires, and closed-door period. "Where they use no physic nor strive with it, they escape best." Nature was allowed to have her way by sensible people, and watched and aided, the patient recovered.

The above remarks will enable our readers to form some idea of what may be gathered from the nearly fifteen hundred separate documents calendared and described in the most satisfactory volume hitherto edited by Mr. Stevenson.

RECENT POETRY.

Poems. By Charles Warren Stoddard. (San Francisco, Roman & Co.; London, Trübner & Co.)

The poems of Mr. Stoddard belong to that class which has merit enough to awaken expectation and not sufficient to satisfy it. Page after page in this volume offers to us delicate suggestions of fancy, or picturesque outlines of material beauty; but, with few exceptions, there is a vagueness of treatment which makes us feel that we scarcely come in contact with real scenes or with definite feelings. The best effort in the collection is 'Tamalpais,' in which the dreamy character of a soft and luxuriant spot by the sea suits the hazy style of the writer. We quote the poem in part:—

How glorious thy dwelling place!
How manifold thy beauties are!
I do not reckon time or space—
I worship thy exceeding grace,
And hasten, as a flying star,
To reach thy splendour from afar.

The first flush of thy morning face
Is dear to me; thy shadowless
Broad noon that doth all sweets confess;
But fairer is thy even fall,
When seem to try with airy call
Thy roses in the wilderness.
Thy desert, blithely blossoming,
Decoy me for the love of Spring,
With all thy glare and glitter spent,
Thy quiet dusk so eloquent;

The veil of vapours—the caress
Of Zephyrus, right cool and sweet—

I cannot wait to love thee less—

I cling to thee with full content,

And fall a-dreaming at thy feet.

Anon the sudden evening sun

Awakes me to the sinking sun

And golden glories at the Gate.

The full, strong tides, that slowly run

Their sliding waters modulate

To indolent soft winds that wait

And lift a long web newly spun.

I see the groves of scented bay,

And night is in their fragrant mass;

But tassel-shadows swing and sway,

And spangles flash and fade away

Upon their glimmering leaves of glass—

And there a fence of rail, quite gray,

With ribs of sunlight in the grass—

And here a branch full well arrayed

With struggling beams a moment stay'd—

Like panting butterflies afraid.

In all this may be traced the sense of beauty and much truth of observation; but work so minute should be looked at through a microscope.

Songs and Ballads. By John James Lonsdale. With a brief Memoir. (Routledge & Sons.)

From the short biographical notice prefixed to these lyrics, we find that Mr. Lonsdale was born at Dumfries, and that he died at Stanwix, Carlisle, in his thirty-fifth year. Infirm health seems first to have directed him to the solace of poetic composition. For a long period his attempts to gain publicity were unavailing; at last, a happy inspiration induced him to submit

his song, 'The Light in the Window,' to the notice of Miss Gabriel. From that time his life had a purpose and an interest; and his success as a writer for music became so decided, that he was urged by Miss Gabriel to collect and publish his songs. His reply bears such testimony to his own generous feelings and to the kind offices rendered him by the accomplished composer, that it is pleasant to quote from it: "I fear I have not sufficient nerve to bear the sight of my effusions in a collected form. I doubt, too, they would want variety; and one is more lightly dealt with in a single song than when you lay a volume on the critic's table. I cannot allow you to depreciate your share in our work, for you have made me any popularity I have gained. I might have scribbled away in my own fashion long enough, without encouragement or success, if you had not given me the one and assisted me to the other. You do not know how cheering and pleasurable your kind aid has been to me, or you would never attempt to detract from your own merit to add to mine; for anything that would tend to lessen my feeling of gratitude to you would be very unwelcome, even though it was kindly intended to instill more self-reliance within me."

Mr. Lonsdale's self-distrust in this matter was groundless. His songs have not only great merit, but they display the very variety of which he was sceptical. His first lay, 'Minna,' might lay claim even to imagination; nevertheless, for completeness and delicacy of execution, we prefer some of his shorter pieces. Of most of these it may be said that they are the dramatic expressions of emotional ideas. The dramatic element is at times very unobtrusive and untheatrical, but it will be recognized by poetical readers. Thus, in the unforced little allegory of 'The Children's Kingdom,' there is not the faintest stir of exciting events; but when the children who set forth singing in the morning enter the city weeping at midnight, chanting still the refrain with which they set forth, the pathos of the change is irresistible. In many cases, however, these songs have the robust interest of story, or that of character and picture. As an example of the latter, we may refer to 'The Ship-Boy's Letter'; in proof of the former, we quote

ROBIN'S RETURN.

It was Yule, and the snow kept falling
In silent shadowy flight,
Through the dull gray haze of the daylight
Far into the starless night;

And father sat close by the fireside

With the children round his knee,

And every bonny brown face was there

But the one that was at sea.

Never a letter and ne'er a word,
And my eyes with tears were dim,

As I wreathed the holly upon the wall,

And harked to the children's hymn;

And father said as their carol ceased,

With a smile nigh like a tear,

Christmas will scarce be Christmas, wife,

If our boy should not be here.

The wheel in the stock stood all unturned,

And I saw not granny's face;

But the tears dropped under the wrinkled hands,

Held towards the Yule log blaze:

Poor Bessie she turn'd to the doorway,

With face both pale and sad,

So I kissed her cheek ere we parted

For love of my sailor lad.

As I look'd down the drift-dimm'd pathway,

I said there's one we know,

Would have given a good deal, darling,

To have seen you thro' the snow:

Then we drew near the hearth together,

And listened side by side,

In the first blithe peal of the merry bells

Which welcome Christmas tide.

Never a sound but the crackling log,

And the wind amid the thatch,

Till the clock was near the stroke of twelve;

When a finger rais'd the latch;

A merry brown face stood at the door,

The face I lov'd the best,

And the snow in the curls of Robin

Lay melting on my breast!

Dear granny, she rose from her corner

And clapped her hands in glee,

And she said, "O roving Robin,

You must keep a kiss for me!"

And there's some one else will want one, too,
Who left not long ago?
"Ah, she got it," quoth Robin, laughing,
"When we met among the snow."

As a contrast to the above, we give 'Lily Graeme,' with its archness of tone, its vivid colour, and gay lift of verse:—

I can see you blushing sair,
Bonny Lily Graeme!
Through the links o' gowden hair,
Fallen frae your kame;
O'er your wheel ye're listening leant,
Since that gowan came;
Riding through the lang green bent
Tinged wi' sunset flame!

Bonnie Lily! Bonnie Lily!
Bonnie Lily Graeme!
The pride o' the Border side
Is bonnie Lily Graeme!

Bonnie Lily, whispering speak,
Through my 'broidery frame;
What can he have come to seek
Frae our Border kame?
Darling, let me twine your hair
Round your siller kame;
There are footsteys on the stair—
Listen, Lily Graeme!

Bonnie Lily! Bonnie Lily!
Bonnie Lily Graeme!
The pride o' the Border side
Is bonnie Lily Graeme!

Kisses fond were rained on me,
And wi' lassie shame,
Lily whispered, wha was he
Dearer grown than hame;—
When our birdie leaves, the nest
Ne'er will look the same;
A' that's fairest—'a' that's best,
Leaves wi' Lily Graeme!

Bonnie Lily! Bonnie Lily!
Bonnie Lily Graeme!
The pride o' the Border side
Is bonnie Lily Graeme!

When it is borne in mind that by far the greater portion of these lays were written for music, no small praise must be awarded to the poet, not only for the suitability of his themes to his purpose, but for the picturesqueness and fancy with which he has invested them under difficult conditions.

Poems, Ballads, and Songs. By G. W. Donald. (Arbroath, Buncle.)

The muse of Mr. Donald is a homely nymph, or at all events a nymph who loves for the most part to don homely gear, to sit in ingle nooks or by the thresholds of farmsteads, and to busy herself with all that concerns household and rustic life. Now, under the title of 'My Mither's Cruzie,' Mr. Donald tells us the story of an old lamp, muses pathetically upon the scenes in which it figured and to which it gave brilliancy in its better days, and mourns over the decay common to lamps and to men. Again, he enters into the sad condition of 'Brothock Water,'—a stream which seems to have been polluted by the modern invasion of factories and steam-engines,—and contrasts its original loveliness and clearness with the fatal results of man's activity. Again, we have our bard commemorating 'The Shopkeepers' Hauf-Holiday,' and describing with character and vigour the glee of shop-lads at their release:—

The draper looms are rampin wud,
An' mad to get awa';
The ellwand gets an uncu thud,
An' dash'd against the wa'.
Syne over the counter, wi' a spring,
They're rattlin on the shutters;
An' some bank-hicht wi' nimble fling
Skip over the strands an' gutters,
Fu' swack this day.

Yon chield's are gyte, as ane wad think,
They're in see great a flutter;
The grocer winna blide a blink,
To stowe his kegs o' butter.
The Gowdie cheese, and Dunlop guid,
Fee round like barrow wheels,
That Belfast ham, thrown heels ower head,
May fill the nicest creels
Some ither day.

The serious poems in this collection are touching and simple; but the writer is happiest in his humorous efforts, or in those which blend humour with pathos. In such cases he shows such heartiness of feeling and such literal truth

of description, that it is impossible to deny to his unpretending effusions the praise of being genuine.

Sylvanus, Netherton, and other Poetical Works. (Edinburgh, Nimmo.)

The author of this portly volume, which includes, moreover, a tragedy called 'Wallace,' writes with creditable pains, but, unfortunately, with no perception of the essential difference between poetry and prose. He has his set descriptions and his conventional metaphors, and, let it be said, he sometimes shows a patience of observation that deserves respect. But of that magic power which touches a scene or a feeling with new and individual light, not a particle has been vouchsafed to him. Had there been, could such a passage as the following have occurred in a narrative ostensibly poetical?—

The cabinet of his chief minister,
The trusted of his father and himself,
Next enter'd he. The statesman was engaged
In soothing the political distrust
Of an opponent, vigilant and powerful,
Uncompromising in antagonism.
Few were the words employ'd, and short the space
Wherein the end desired was obtain'd,
But magical the means towards the end.
Uprose he then, triumphant from his seat,
Greeting his visitor "Eight Honourable."
Such is the influence of the ruling powers:
But not one word did the young monarch hear
From the lips of the embryo minister,
Explanatory of the course he took,
Of gradual slow conversion to the views
Propounded by the veteran in council.

Lines of this kind indicate a capacity for dry statistics, which might be invaluable to a pleader or an equity-draughtsman, scarcely to a poet.

The Grecian Maid, and other Poems. By Charles L. B. Cumming. (Griffith & Farran.)

'The Grecian Maid' has nothing to distinguish it from the many amateurish productions which are written for the delectation of their authors, and of no one besides.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Notes and Sketches of the Paris Exhibition. By George Augustus Sala. (Tinsley Brothers.)

We can hardly go the length of the author of this sparkling series of remarks—"sketches" is no right name for them—when he writes that they have been written out of his own head "entirely." It is undoubtedly true, that for all they owe to judicious and laborious study of the great gathering which has just been closed, they might as well have been produced in Fleet Street as in Paris. Nevertheless, there is more than enough of local colour about the jumbled mass to convince one that notes taken on the spot have been thrown together off-hand, and almost anyhow, to make, at the easiest, a set of papers. Making allowances for the occasional but rare brilliance of the author's fancy, for his keen power of recognizing what will attract the popular taste, his personal whimsicalities, which dazzle ere they weary, and for his remarkable dexterity with the pen, we have done all that can be done with his book. The queer conglomerate before us is made up of "sketches," as the writer calls them, of detached sections of the Exhibition, on subjects which are out of proportion to the interest or merit of others which get not a word. Thus, "On Glass" is a sort of running criticism, written from a single point of view, and of a calibre which will be conceivable when it is understood that Mr. Sala avowedly prefers the sharp-edged, child-delighting and flashy imitations of crystal in "cut-glass" to the softer, more refined mellowness of the material when moulded or twisted. There is a section on "Lay Figures," and another on "Dolls and Toys," which would amuse if they stood alone, and we were not already dazzled by the excessive cleverness of the articles which precede them.

Practical Billiards. By William Dufton. With Illustrations. (Routledge & Sons.)

In his preface to this handsome book on a game that has fairly lived down its detractors and the evil fame that, until the other day, excluded it from thousands of homes in which it has now become a favourite pastime, Mr. William Dufton informs us that he acts as the literary executor of the late Mr. Frederic Hardy, of Leamington, who not only designed the work, but had almost perfected it for the printers, when his sudden death rendered it necessary for another hand to put the last touches to the unfinished task. "On the other hand," observes Mr. Dufton, when he has made due mention of Mr. Hardy's labours, "I may remark that, on various points of some importance, I have not hesitated to substitute my views and instructions for his, wherever a regard for accuracy urged me to do so. I may also add, that the description given of the method of playing Handicap Billiards, and the Rules appertaining to the game, are exclusively my own; that variety of billiard-playing, now become so popular, having originated with me." Coming from a well-known professor of the game, this treatise will be accepted by players as authoritative, and as having superseded the popular and useful books of the gentleman who, under the *nom de plume* of Captain Crawley, has for some time been the widely-trusted teacher of beginners and lawgiver to amateurs.

Horace. Odes, Epistles, and the Secular Song, newly Translated into Verse. By C. S. Mathews, A.M. (Longmans & Co.)

If Horace is here newly translated, he is certainly not truly or duly rendered; nor is the translation properly speaking, verse, but doggerel, and that too of the clumsiest sort. It is amazing that a Cambridge M.A. should have thought it worth while to perpetrate such mauling; still more so, that it should be printed and published. It has neither the fun of a burlesque nor the merit of a poor copy. If anybody requires to be convinced that thought and language are not identical, he has only to compare this perversions with the original, and see in what dissimilar forms of words the same general ideas can be expressed. The ode on Pindar begins thus:—

As Pindar wrote who tries to write
Attempts a new Icarian flight,
Relies to cross a boundless sea
A soldier borrowed of the bee,
And sowing somewhere in mid-tide
Which names him only to deride
Atones in obliquy for pride.

Can any of our readers construe the above or scan the following lines?—

Yet not t' o'relap modesty in wine there is warning in
the war
Fought at the instant out between Ixion's son and the
Centaur.

Here is another bit:—

Nor trenching it a hunch away
From solidarity of day.

We may also add from the quantity of this kind of nonsense these choice pieces,—

To no care but thine
The Fates resign
How great shall Caesar be: suggest
Two bettermost and one the best.

And

Necessity let her but pin
Your cranium direly down
To limbo with her adamantine
Spikenails, medoubts you get
Your mind from terror or ere
Your skull is in her net
Or extricate it being there.

—Need we say more?

County Courts Jurisdiction Before and After January 1st, 1868: showing by an Arrangement in Parallel Columns the Changes effected by the several Sections of the County Courts Act, 1867. By Almarie Rumsey, of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister-at-Law. (Amer.)

"Have you looked into the new County Courts Act?" is the question put by every barrister to his professional brethren on his meeting them either on circuit or at Westminster. Mr. Almarie Rumsey has looked into it to some purpose. Till the various provisions of the Act become familiar to the lawyers by sad experience, they will find his clever Arrangement

ment of new and old indispensable. We see at a glance what the principal changes introduced by the present Act will do for the public. What they will do for the profession is not yet so certain. The attorneys' clerks who have grumbled at the veto put on the issue of writs for sums under 20*l.*, and who state in piteous tones that they have issued some hundreds of such writs every year, are, of course, not to be contented. But it is quite possible that junior counsel may profit by the opening to them of Courts which will not be accessible to their seniors, and that they may learn business practically instead of being dependent on others.

Spring Time; or, Words in Season. A Book of Friendly Counsel for Girls. By Sydney Cox. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

JUST one hundred and eighty years since, Matthew Gillyflower, bookseller at a stall on the east side of Westminster Hall, and James Partridge, dealer in literature at Charing Cross, published 'The Lady's New-Year's Gift; or, Advice to a Daughter,' in which an anxious father and well-wisher to the young ladies of James the Second's and William the Third's London, gave the girls of his time much prudent counsel, "under these following heads: viz., Religion, Husband and Family, Servants, Behaviour and Conversation, Friendships, Censure, Vanity and Affection, Pride, Diversions, Dancing;" and now, after an interval of six generations, Mrs. Sydney Cox puts forth a similar volume of excellent counsel which serves to show that the young ladies of our Victorian age differ but little in their tastes, foibles, and faults, from the high-born damsels of the seventeenth century, to whom the anxious father remarked with characteristic sobriety, "To dance sometimes will not be imputed to you as a fault, but remember that the end of your learning it was, that you might know the better how to move gracefully; it is only an advantage so far; when it goeth beyond it, one may call it excelling in a mistake, which is no very great commendation. It is better for a woman never to dance because she hath no skill in it, than to do it too often because she doth it well." Mrs. Sydney Cox thinks lightly of the enthusiastic friendships which young ladies are wont to form with their favourite school-mates, or other girls with whom they are frequently thrown; and in her desire to restrain her young friends from attachments that "arise only from sentimentality or idleness," she admonishes them in their dealings with each other to "avoid extreme intimacy, and especially that degree of familiarity which breeds contempt." The anxious father gave similar advice in the address which begins, "I must in a particular manner recommend to you a strict care in the choice of your friends; perhaps the best are not without their objections: but, however, be sure that yours may not stray from the rules which the wiser part of the world hath set to them. * * * Besides, these great dearnesses by degrees grow injurious to the rest of your acquaintance, and throw them off from you. There is such an offensive distinction when the dear friend cometh into the room, that it is flinging stones at the company, who are not apt to forgive it." Just as Mrs. Cox finds it necessary to lecture her young friends about that petty "pride of birth" which she describes "as eternally rejoicing in its own imaginary grandeur, and caring but little to conceal the scorn and disdain it feels for all who take rank beneath it in the social scale," the author of 'The Lady's New-Year's Gift' lavished ridicule on the arrogant lasses "who would have the world think that no amends can ever be made for the want of a great title or ancient coat of arms." The "fast girls" of James the Second's time were known as "jolly ladies," and, lashing their inordinate love of pleasure, the judicious counsellor remarked concerning them, "Some ladies are bespoken for merry meetings, as Bessus was for duels; they are engaged in a circle of idleness, where they turn round for the whole year without the interruption of a serious hour; they know all the players' names, and are intimately acquainted with all the booths in Bartholomew

Fair; no soldier is more obedient to the sound of his captain's trumpet than they are to that which summoneth them either to a puppet-play or a monster; the spring that bringeth out flies and fools maketh them inhabitants in Hyde Park; in the winter they are an incumbrance to the playhouse and the ballast of the drawing-room." Mrs. Cox is no less severe towards the feminine pleasure-seekers of our own time, the worst kind of whom are those noisy young ladies who "talk about horses and dogs in a way that would better suit grooms and veterinary surgeons." Of this sort is the young lady who recently shocked Mrs. Sydney Cox by declaring that "she always jibbed at babies" and that "drinking tea was horribly slow—pale ale was the stuff to sleep upon." Apart from the amusement which it is calculated to afford readers who compare it with earlier treatises addressed to the young ladyism of olden time, Mrs. Cox's volume is an entertaining book. But though it is calculated to divert and instruct our girls, experience forbids us to hope that it will work any permanent change in the character of the sex for whose advancement in virtue and wisdom it has been written. Some hundred and eighty years hence a future Mrs. Sydney Cox will admonish a generation of saucy girls who will resemble the fast girls of our own time just as closely as the latter resemble the "jolly ladies" for whose behoof Messrs. Gillyflower and Partridge published their 'Lady's New-Year's Gift' in the January of 1867-8.

A Photograph of the Sea (Southport, Sampson) is very pretty; better than most of its class.

The Lord's Prayer, illuminated, (Nelson & Sons) is handsomely reproduced in its way.

We have on our table *The Daily Prayer-Book, for the Use of Families*, by Robert Vaughan, D.D. (Jackson, Walford & Hodder),—*Moxon's Standard Penny Readings*, Vol. III. (Moxon),—*Wasp's Honey; or, Poetic Gold and Gems of Poetic Thought*, by Richard Howitt (Darton),—*Greece: her Progress and Present Position*, republished from the French of Alexander Riza Rangabé; with an Introduction (New York, Putnam),—*The Student's Chart of English Literature*, arranged by J. W. Morris (Longmans),—*How to Use the Barometer* (Bemrose),—*A Dish of Gossip off the Willow Pattern*, by Buz, and *Plates to Match*, by Fuz (Laidlaw),—*Museus: a Tale*, by Thomas Edward Clack (Donnison). Also the following new editions: *Sabbath: an Ode, with Poems suited to the Communion Season*, by the Rev. Peter Macmorland (Edinburgh, Cameron),—*The Poetical Works of Thomas Gray* (Bicker),—*Agnes*, by Mrs. Oliphant (Hurst & Blackett),—*Guide to the Examination for Promotion of Regimental Officers in the Infantry*, in Two Parts, by Major J. Millar Bannatyne (Glasgow, Maclehose),—*The Insurance Guide and Handbook*, dedicated especially to Insurance Agents; being a Guide to the Principles and Practice of Life Insurance, and a Handbook of the best Authorities on the Science, together with a Chapter on Life Assurance as an Investment, by Cornelius Walford (Layton),—*The Bath Waters: their Use and Effects in the Cure and Relief of various Chronic Diseases*, by James Tunstall, M.D. (Churchill),—*A Practical Introduction to the German Language*, on an entirely New Plan, illustrating the Principal Rules of German Grammar by Conversational Exercises, by Dr. J. T. Loth (Whittaker),—and *Hints to Purchasers of Jewellery on the Relative Value of the Different Qualities of Gold*, by Edwin W. Streeter (Simpkin & Marshall). And the following pamphlets: *On the Punishment of Death for Wilful Murder*: a Sermon preached in Westminster Abbey, Sunday, Nov. 24, 1867, by Christopher Wordsworth, D.D., Archdeacon of Westminster (Rivingtons),—*Sermons, Occasional and Parochial*, by the Rev. John Keble, M.A., Part II. (Parker),—*A Statement relating to Facts which have been misunderstood, and to Questions which have been raised in connexion with the Consecration, Trial and Excommunication of the Right Rev. Dr. Colenso*, by the Bishop of Capetown, Metropolitan, Second Edition, with an Appendix (Rivingtons),—*Christ and Antichrist*: a Sermon,

at the Mass of Requiem for those who fell in Defence of Rome, by Henry Edward Archbishop of Westminster (Longmans),—*The Anglican Conference*: Two Sermons, by the Rev. R. St. John Tyrwhitt, M.A. (Parker),—*The Chasuble not Anglican, but Roman*, by the Rev. J. W. Inman, M.A. (Rivingtons),—*The Mystery of Iniquity*: a Sermon preached before the University of Oxford, in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Nov. 17, 1867, by William Basil Jones, M.A., Archdeacon of York (Parker),—*An Inquiry into the Truth of Christianity and the Doctrine of Necessity*, by Edward Hoyle (Austin),—*Evil Days*: a Sermon preached before the University of Oxford at St. Mary's Church, Nov. 3, 1867, by the Rev. W. Stubbs, M.A. (Parker),—*What Constitutes a Church? or, the English Church Free from the Errors of the Churches of Rome and Germany*, together with Letters to the Rev. Lord Sidney G. Osborne on his Remarks on the Bishop of Salisbury's Charge, and to the Churchwardens of the Diocese of Sarum, by J. A. Williams (Rivingtons),—*The Future; or, Ten Years Hence*: a Lecture, delivered Nov. 12, 1867, for the Young Men's Christian Association, in the Collegiate Hall, Liverpool, by the Rev. John Macnaught, M.A. (Simpkin & Marshall),—and *The Gospel for the Afghans*; being a Short Critical Examination of a small Portion of a Version in the Pashto, or Afghan, Language, and a Comparison between it and the Original Greek, from which it is said to have been made, by Capt. H. G. Raverty (Williams & Norgate).

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Silver Lake; or, Lost in the Snow. By R. M. Ballantyne. (Jackson, Walford & Hodder)

How the little Gores, children of Robin Gore, "a bold hunter of the backwoods of America," were lost in the snow, and captured by Indians, and eventually restored to the arms of their mother, one of the best of many excellent fabricators of prose fiction for infantile minds tells with his characteristic qualities of fancy and diction. The illustrations and typographical style of 'Silver Lake' add to the attractiveness of the story.

The Treasures of the Earth; or, Mines, Minerals, and Metals. With Anecdotes of Men who have been connected with Mining. By William Jones. (Warne & Co.)

To the children to whom it is affectionately inscribed, this book, which is a compilation rather than an original work, will afford an abundance of such instruction and amusement as it was "designed" to give them; but we cannot commend Mr. Jones for accuracy, or even for faithful adherence to the authorities from whom he has gathered his multifarious statements. He thus reproduces the old, foolish, altogether baseless story that George Stephenson was the inventor of the locomotive for railways. "The invention of the locomotive engine belongs to Trevithick and Vivian, two natives of Cornwall, who made one in 1802 to run on common roads; but as Stephenson first applied steam-power to locomotive engines on railways, he has been regarded as the father of English railways." Is it necessary to repeat yet again that Trevithick in 1804 built a locomotive which drew along the Merthyr Tydyl (South Wales) Railway a train of wagons loaded with ten tons of bar-iron, at the rate of five miles an hour; and that when George Stephenson built his first locomotive at Killingworth, he merely adopted the principles of a successful steam-locomotive which had been running for about two years on a railway within a few miles of his door? At this date, persons who presume to write about George Stephenson ought to know that so far as the locomotive is concerned he was merely a copyist of a near neighbour's work, and has not the faintest shadow of a claim to be regarded as an inventor, or even an improver.

The Little Oxleys, their Sayings and Doings. By Mrs. W. D. Burton. (Routledge & Sons.) CHILDREN of London homes, who wish to know how their contemporaries in rural districts take life with its pleasures and trials, will delight in this easy-worded book about the Little Oxleys, whose papa is a country doctor. *Governesses*

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who want a reading-book for six-years-old children may be recommended to buy the book for school-room use.

The Story of Papa's Wise Dogs. Told and Illustrated by Himself. (Routledge & Sons.)

The author of these anecdotes of canine cleverness does himself less than justice when he says, "If this collection of anecdotes has any merit, it is due to the scrupulous truth of every story it contains." Whereas truth may be so put that it is less acceptable than falsehood, our historian of wise dogs will owe some of his popularity amongst little readers to the tact and spirit with which he discharges the functions of a veracious narrator.

Schnick-Schnack: a Trifle for the Little Ones. (Routledge & Sons.)

A bright book of gaudy pictures and simple verses for the wee ones of a nursery party.

Stories from French History: a Book for Children. By A. M. Lushington. With Illustrations. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

Miss Lushington's brief stories are told with simplicity and skill; but her commendable work is disfigured by some ludicrously bad things which courtesy requires us to call artistic embellishments. The frontispiece, depicting "Edward the Third's Army destroyed by a Thunderstorm," would convulse with laughter an obstinate hypochondriac taken in his most despondent mood. In the picture of "The Parting of Marie Antoinette and her Son," the little dauphin has a ninety-years-old face. We commend this work of art to the notice of Mr. E. M. Ward.

The History of Prince Perrypets: a Fairy Tale. By L. S. K. With Illustrations. (Saunders, Otley & Co.)

From children who prefer tales of fairyland to stories of such real life as boys and girls encounter, L. S. K. will receive thanks for her fanciful narrative, which her illustrator and publishers have produced in a very attractive form and fashion.

Ellen Clinton; or, the Influence of a Loving Spirit. By H. W. (Clarke & Co.)

Margaret Torrington; or, the Voyage of Life. By Emma Jane Worboise. (Clarke & Co.)

Lullington: a Tale. By A. S. W. (Nisbet & Co.)

Or these three novelettes for girls between twelve and sixteen years of age, one is bad, one good, and one very good. For 'Ellen Clinton,' the work, we presume, of green hands, nothing can be said, even in Christian charity, beyond a hope that the labour of writing it may have good results on its author's character and mental power. Of 'Margaret Torrington,' by a writer who steadily improves in her useful department of literary industry, and of 'Lullington,' which fulfils all the promise of its author's previous story, 'Gabrielle Hastings,' we can speak with warm commendation. Miss Worboise's narrative concerns the fortunes of a high-spirited, self-dependent, generous girl, who, after the close of her school-days, does her duty bravely as a teacher of children until she marries her old playmate Gilbert. The chief heroine of 'Lullington'—a tale mainly told in the diaries of two girls whose journals are made to dovetail with convenient exactness—in like manner is tried and tempered in the school of adversity, before she meets with the reward of merit in a lover whose suit eventually receives the approval of her parents. Evelyn Anstruther's diary opens in a style that justifies us in encouraging A. S. W. to persevere in literary effort.

The Children's Hour Annual. Second Series. (Johnstone, Hunter & Co.)

The poems and short stories of this volume for children are the work of writers who know how and have done their best to amuse young people. Any father accustomed to devote a daily hour to companionship with his little ones will find in it the means for amusing his youngsters when they sit round the parlour hearthrug and clamour for a story out of his head, or a new book.

Noble Rivers, and Stories concerning Them. By Anna Jane Buckland. (Johnstone, Hunter & Co.) The Jordan, Euphrates, Nile, Cydnus, Tiber, Rhine, and Thames are the noble rivers about

which Miss Anna Jane Buckland has written a little book that may be given to children for Sunday evening study.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Alford's Epistles, First Section, fc. 3/6 cl.
Anderson's in the Snow, Mount St.-Bernard, fc. 3/6 cl.
Axel, a Girl's Poem, tr. by Mrs. G. C. 2/6 cl.
Bax's Flowers and Festivals: Decoration of Churches, 5/- cl.
Blunt's Key to the Book of Common Prayer, 12mo, 2/6 cl.
Book of Songs for the Young, with Music, cr. 8vo, 16mo, 8/- cl.
Boy's Own Book of Sports and Pastimes, illust. imp. 16mo, 8/- cl.
Brook's Tales of the Poor, or, the Sister of Mercy, fc. 3/6 cl.
Brock's Bread of God, fc. 1/- cl.
Burn's Modern Farming : Crop, fc. 5/- cl.
Burn's Modern Farming: Stock, Poultry, &c., fc. 5/- cl.
Carpenter's Moral Song-Book, 32mo, 1/- bds.
Carpeted Relics: Sing-Book, 32mo, 1/- bds.
Cham's Choral Manual, ed. H. Leslie, folio, 15/- cl.
Consoling Thoughts in Sickness, 12mo, 2/- cl.
Dallas's Story of the Irish Church Missions, Part 1, 2/6 cl.
Duponchel's Studios Women, tr. by Philimore, cr. 8vo, 4/- cl.
Fox's Collection of Stories, Vol. 1, 2/- cl.
Gay's Courage and the Cowards, 18mo, 2/- cl.
Griffith's Maid Mainwaring, a Novel, 3 vols. cr. 8vo, 31/- cl.
Grawitz's Artistic Anatomy of Cattle and Sheep, 12mo, 1/- swd.
Hart's Boys' Own Book of Stories, Vol. 1, 2/- cl.
Hicks's Fifteen Fables for Children, tr. by Klingemann, roy. 8vo, 4/- cl.
Hood's A. Not So Bad, a New Year's Annual, 8vo, awd. 1/- cl.
Irving (E.), Prophetic Writings of, ed. by G. Carlyle, Vol. 1, 15/- cl.
John Phillips, or Happy Homes for Working Men, 12mo, 1/- cl.
Locke's Essays, or, the Elements of Human Knowledge, 2 vols. 2/- cl.
Little Gardener, an Almanac for Children, fc. 2/- cl.
Lushington's School for Donkeys, and other Stories, fc. 3/6 cl.
Macbeth's Memoirs of Christian Life in the Camp, 12mo, 5/- cl.
Mackdowall's History of Dumfries, 8vo, 15/- cl.
Mackellar's Anatomy, Historical and Descriptive, 2 vols. cr. 8vo, 32/- cl.
Matthew's Bees, 12mo, 1/- cl.
Moffatt's Mental Arithmetic for Students, 12mo, 1/- cl.
Morris's Clue to Railway Compensation, with Supplement, 4/- cl.
Mystical Women and the Cities of the Nations, by Dionysius, 4/- cl.
Not So Bad, a New Year's Annual, 8vo, 1/- swd.
Old and New Testament, or, The Grace of God, cr. 8vo, 3/- cl.
Pirie's Natural Theology, 5/- cl.
Proctor's Sun Vines of the Earth, or the Seasons Illustrated, 6/- cl.
Scott's British Army: its Origin, Progress, &c., illust. 2 vols. 30/- cl.
Spong's Hero of the Desert, cr. 8vo, 4/- cl.
Symons's Rain: how, when, where, and why it is Measured, 2/- cl.
Tennyson's Enoch Arden, trans. into Latin by Selwyn, sq. 6/- cl.
Thames (The), illust. by Photographs, 3rd Series, sq. 6/- cl.
Ton Sylvanus Fresh Review, by J. C. Hervey, Vol. 1 & 2, 8vo, 24/- cl.
Vernon's Latin Translations, Ancient and Modern, 8vo, 12/- cl.
White's Massacre of St. Bartholomew, 8vo, 15/- cl.

THE MISTLETOE.

Old Court, December, 1867.

THE Mistletoe was in great distress. The Apple-tree it had been living with had suddenly died, and it was now compelled to look out for another home. So entering a fine large orchard, full of all sorts of fruit, and making a polite bow to the best Apple-tree, it introduced itself as Master Mistletoe, late resident of Appleton Grove. "I have been living for years with one of your sort," it commenced, "and now my friend has died, and I have to find new lodgings. I see you have a good many stout branches unoccupied; would you allow me to take up my quarters there for awhile?"

"Certainly not," replied the Apple-tree. "You are an idle vagabond, and would not be content with living near me, but you would live upon me. I knew the Apple-tree you speak of very well indeed; we were brought up in the same nursery together, and I warned him more than once against rascals of your description. But he would not listen. He allowed you to stay with him, and you, parasite as you are, were not ashamed to live upon the very flesh and marrow of my good-natured friend, until he had devoured all his substance. Now you are going to fasten yourself upon me. No, no, you won't catch me slaving away for people too lazy to work for themselves."

"Oh, Mr. Apple-tree, it won't do to make yourself out to be hard-hearted," rejoined the Mistletoe. "Your charitable disposition is plain to all the world. Don't I see that hop winding around your upper branches and blossoming to its heart's content? Would it have been able to do that if not allowed to climb higher than the hedge which affords you yourself a partial shelter? Why should you refuse me a boon which you have freely granted to a straggling hop?"

"Now, look ye here, Master Mistletoe, I'll not bandy words with you, but just let me tell you this," said the Apple-tree, waxing hot: "you never soil your feet, as I and the hop have to do; indeed, I know that none of your tribe ever puts a single root in the ground. All you do is to suck the very life-blood out of others, and that without the slightest remorse or spark of gratitude on your part. It is not merely assistance you want,—that I would willingly give; because I well remember, when a young sapling, I required that of two very strong sticks myself; but you want to be kept entirely, live the life of an independent gentleman,

though you have no resources of your own. It is very different with the hop, of which you speak so sneeringly; he is too weak to stand alone, and requires support; but he does his best. All day long he is busy in the ground, picking up whatever he can; and look at these fine clusters; they will be gathered presently by our master, and give a fine flavour to the home-brewed ale, of which he is as fond as of the cider he makes of my fruit. Could one ever look for any such returns from you?"

"A fine thing to be proud of," exclaimed the Mistletoe sneeringly. "Beer and Cider! My fruit, I am happy to say, does not serve the ends of drunkenness. Man makes it into excellent lime to catch such singing birds as he does not wish to kill. It therefore actually saves life, whilst yours may be said to destroy it. But it is mere labour thrown away to argue with you. I see what it is, you are in a dreadfully bad humour to-day, and it is no use to ask any favour of you. I always thought you hospitable, but I am sorry to find that you are, after all, one who greedily keeps everything to himself,—if, indeed, he has anything to spare."

"I knew that I should be abused," replied the Apple-tree; "real beggars always grumble when refused charity."

The Mistletoe could see the Apple-tree was getting angry, and fearing that he would speak so loudly that the whole neighbourhood could overhear their dispute, and make it more difficult to get snug quarters anywhere else, he walked to another very fine Apple-tree, at the other end of the orchard, to whom he had paid more than once flattering compliments.

"Good morning, Mr. Apple-tree," he said: "how well you look; but no one can wonder at that, bearing in mind your fine constitution, and the delightful locality you live in. I wish I could stay with you awhile; it really would do me good; for I have had so much trouble of late that I am quite worn out. You knew poor Mr. Apple-tree, of Appleton Grove; I believe he was a connexion of yours. Well, poor thing! he is no more; and I, who had been living so many years with him (you know he was so fond of my company that he would never part from me), was suddenly without a home. I fully expected something would be left me, considering all I have done for him; but in that I have been disappointed. So I must do the best I can, live as economically as possible, and take the first shelter I can get. There seems to be plenty of room in your upper branches; I wish you would allow me to take up my quarters there for a few days."

"I am really sorry to have to refuse you," replied the Apple-tree; "but the farmer is a great enemy of Mistletoes; he says they are idle fellows, and wherever they establish themselves they cause mischief, and there is no getting rid of them. Why don't you go to the forest; there are plenty of fine old oaks, and no farmer to oppose you; besides, I have always heard that a Mistletoe growing on an oak was such a curiosity as to excite the greatest notice; indeed, if I remember rightly, I have heard that at one time they were actually worshipped if found in such localities."

"All you say is quite true," replied the Mistletoe. The farmer objects, because at Christmas the servants will cut branches of me, to make a kissing-bush; and he cannot bear young people to enjoy that fun, quite forgetting that when not so old as he is now he was not sorry that some of my relations grew sufficiently close to his father's house to be got at without much trouble."

"True, very true," rejoined the Apple-tree.

"And then," continued the Mistletoe, having taken breath, "what you say about worshipping us is perfectly true; I could tell you all day long about the important part my ancestors used to play before the Christian religion came into the land; and if you will allow me to remain a few days, I will while away the long evenings by telling you of their great doings. It is as interesting as anything you ever heard, and I am sure you will be delighted."

"But I am sure the oak is most respectable; and if you become such an object of admiration when associated with it, why don't you attach yourself

to that venerable tree?" inquired the Apple-tree.

" You may well ask," rejoined the Mistletoe; " but the fact of the matter is, the wood of the oak, however well suited for ships, is so very hard that we have the greatest difficulty in establishing our roots in it; and I am rather partial to putting my feet in a soft bed. Besides, there is another circumstance that ought not to be concealed from you. I am rather fond of good living, and you know that every Christmas the people of the village like to have a bit of mistletoe in their houses. Now, if I am hidden in a forest, no one will think of looking there for me; but if I am in an orchard, where everybody sees me, I stand a fair chance of being fetched, and then partake of the Christmas cheer as a matter of course."

The Apple-tree was himself very fond of good living; and when the Mistletoe alluded to the Christmas cheer, his mouth began to water. The Mistletoe saw his advantage, and continued:

" Now, my dear sir, I have a proposition to make. Let me take up my quarters in your branches till Christmas, and if I am fetched to any of the houses, I shall bring back with me plenty of good things, and we will have a jolly time of it."

The Apple-tree's weak point had been touched. He allowed the Mistletoe to take up his quarters with him, thinking it would only be for a short time, and he would be well remunerated for it. At first Mistletoe was pleasant enough, saying many flattering things; but when he had firmly established himself, he assumed airs as if everything belonged to him. Not satisfied with occupying by himself more room than had originally been agreed upon, he invited his friends and relations; and after the door had been once opened to them, there was no getting rid of them. The Apple-tree began to complain; he had as yet not seen anything of the Christmas cheer, nobody having come for the Mistletoe; and at last he tried to rid himself of his unpleasant visitors. One night when there was a heavy gale he implored upon the occasion by shaking himself violently; but the only result was, that all his fruit-blossoms fell off, and one of the best branches, hitherto free from the Mistletoes, broke clean off. What was worse, the Mistletoes perceived the Apple-tree's anger, and laughed right out at him. He found they were getting the better of him, and consuming all he had. Ruin was staring him in the face; first one branch, then another, began to wither; and wherever there was any healthy part, it was sure to be taken possession of by his unscrupulous and voracious visitors. At last, finding all his struggles to free himself and restore to his frame the original vigour hopeless, he began to sink fast, and ere long died. He was cut down by the farmer and thrown into the cart; and as his funeral was passing along, the Apple-tree who had been proof against the solicitations of the Mistletoe, uttered a deep sigh, and murmured to himself, " There goes another victim to flattery!" The Mistletoe had again to look out for a home; but as all the Apple-trees of that part of the country were now aware that his only aim was to live upon others, and lead an idle, useless life, all his applications met with a refusal. So he made up his mind to go abroad; but, being without resources of his own, he found the long journey too much for him, and ultimately perished miserably on the road.

S.
THE WESTMINSTER PLAY.
UPWARDS of two thousand years ago at the funeral games of *Emilus Paulus*, before a Roman audience, was represented the comedy of 'The Adelphi,' written by the Carthaginian poet, *Tertius Afer*. The same play, with a few omissions, was acted on Tuesday evening, in the old Dormitory of St. Peter's College, by the seniors of Westminster School. Before the rise of the curtain, the Prologue, which contained the usual panegyric on the old Westminsters who had died during the past year, was ably, if not eloquently, spoken by Mr. Edward Bray, captain of the school. The general acting of the play was as good as in former years, although every one who was present in the Dormitory at the Christmas of 1863 will remember the burst of applause, not only from the

sweet little cherubs aloft in the gods, but also from the grave and reverend seniors in the pit, which greeted Sostrata after her passionate upbraiding of the apparently perfidious *Aeschinus*, as the rôle of Sostrata was but indifferently played this year. Mr. Bray, as *Aeschinus*, acted gracefully, and showed a thorough appreciation of the author's words, especially in the scene with *Micio* (Mr. Haden). The characters of *Geta* and *Syrus*, the two slaves (Messrs. O'Brien and Giles), were fairly rendered; the latter in his drunken scene was comic without being vulgar. Mr. Haden, as the good-humoured *Micio*, acted well; and Mr. Randolph, as *Sannio*, the rough slave-dealer, was comic and energetic. Mr. Lefroy, in the long and difficult part of *Demea*, played carefully and well, and when the final "plaudite" had been spoken, was warmly greeted by the audience. The *dramatis personae* were as follows:—*Demea*, W. C. Lefroy; *Micio*, F. S. Haden; *Aeschinus*, E. Bray; *Clesiphon*, G. W. M. Dasent; *Syrus*, E. Giles; *Sannio*, E. S. L. Randolph; *Hegio*, D. A. V. Williams; *Sostrata*, B. Darley; *Cantharus*, B. U. Eddis; *Geta*, F. A. O'Brien; *Dromo*, H. Barron. *Personae muta*:—*Parmeno*, H. Wace. The Epilogue, in which *Demea*, *Micio*, *Syrus* and *Aeschinus* appear again, seemed to be thoroughly appreciated by the young and old Westminsters, and contained the usual Latin jokes and puns.

M. P. B. DU CHAILLU.

Gaboon, W. Africa, Nov. 4, 1867.

In the notice of 'The Forest and the Field,' which appeared in the *Athenæum* of June 29, an extract is given from that work (which I have not yet seen), wherein the author, speaking of the traveller M. Du Chaillu (or Belloni), states that "His father was for some years a trader on this part of the coast, and his mother—a negress, of the Mpongwe tribe—and her daughter still live close to the mission-house." This is correct only so far as the father of M. Du Chaillu is concerned, who was a *commis*, or clerk, in the Gaboon establishment of M. Louis Vidal, of Havre, whose agent and representative here was M. A. Michon, whom, it may be remembered, the late editor of the *Critic* professed to treat as a mythical personage.

The mother of M. Paul Belloni Du Chaillu was most certainly not a negress of the Mpongwe tribe; the woman whom "H. A. L." saw, and interrogated here, was a native of Corisco Island, and her daughter is the *half-sister* only of the traveller. I am quite sure that "the Old Shekarry" made the statement in good faith, but he must either have been misinformed at the time, or his memory must have since failed him, which may easily be the case, as it is five and a half years since he was in Gaboon.

I may add, that I always understood M. P. Belloni Du Chaillu to be a native of the island of Bourbon or Réunion. R. B. N. WALKER.

THE ABBÉ MOIGNO AND THE ATHENÆUM.

The Abbé Moigno, editor of *Les Mondes*—by the way, he must not be confounded with the learned and energetic Abbé Migne, editor of the Theological Library,—the Abbé Moigno, we say, is angry with us. He abandons the editorial character for himself, and refuses it to us, by hinting that he knows the author of our recent answer to Sir D. Brewster; and against this presumed author he directs personal remarks. The cause of war is this. We said that M. Chasles is not supported by a single man of science; now he is supported by Abbé Moigno: therefore (and he is right so far) Abbé Moigno charges us with having denied that he is a man of science. This he asserts himself to be, and produces his proofs. Here is confirmation of our statement. M. Moigno assures us that he defends himself, "not out of personal vanity, but to avenge the insult offered to M. Chasles." Consequently, if there had been any better person to bring forward, Abbé Moigno would not have nominated himself to the vacant post of Deputy Protector of the Legion of Forgeries. We shall not discuss his claims: he is well known to men of science, both in England and France; and we

have not room to explain the smile which his pretension will excite. A better plan will be to bring forward and act upon his declaration, that if we be honest we shall make him the *amende honorable*. We will do so. We amend our statement, and we say that M. Chasles is not supported by a single man of science except the Abbé Moigno! The other men of science in France will understand us, and will accept our apology. One of the Abbé's proofs of science is, that he is the 408th Crater of the Moon! This little speck—by his own account—has actually been named after him. He is thus in proximity—he says—with all the illustrious men of science, ancient and modern. The proximity is of a moon kind, and only perceptible through a powerful glass: but it will serve. Henceforward the salutes of *Les Mondes* will be known as eruptions of the 408th Crater. Our present object is to note the full confirmation we receive from the Abbé Moigno having no one but himself to produce, and from the following avowal:—"Personne ne regrette plus que nous de voir les savants Français en général, les savants de l'Académie des Sciences en particulier, si froids, si indifférents, nous dirions presque si lâches dans une cause à la fois grandement scientifique et saintement nationale; mais hélas! toute ardeur scientifique est morte parmi nous, tout feu sacré est éteint; c'est une raison de plus pour que nous le conservions dans toute son intensité." How fortunate that the Abbé Moigno is lord of the 408th Crater. Why did he say that *all* the sacred flame was extinct, when he has at his own disposal an unlimited supply of lunar combustibles? The above quotation contains a genuine compliment to French science. It was not wanted, however, for though the rest of Europe is convinced that French national feeling is often too strong, it was never thought that feeling would overpower rationality so far as to procure support for such a self-destructive congeries of stultiloquies as the Legion of Forgeries.

The Abbé Moigno produces a defence of "Miss Anne Ascough Newton." "What! an English widow writing to an illustrious man who deigns to interest himself about the young Newton, son of her former marriage, could not sign her letter with the name she no longer bore, but which alone could recall the ties which bound her to her child, whose precocity had obtained praises so cheering to her heart! A mother does not cease to be a mother because she is English: nay, English mothers are, they say, the best and the most natural of mothers." Truly did we say that the Abbé has an invincible ignorance of English ways! If Hannah Smith had wanted to recall her former name she would have signed "Hannah Smith, formerly Newton"; she would not have added her maiden name; or, if she had, she would not have mis-spelt her Christian name; above all, no English person signs a letter with a conventional prefix: and if the lady had used the prefix *Mis*, she would have indicated, not that she was a "natural mother," but that her son was a natural son. The Abbé's knowledge of English manners is on a par with the power over English idiom shown in the following letter, which reached us just in time for this article:—

"Sir,—You think no Frenchman write your language; I prove you the contrary. You mock yourself of M. Chasles et de M. l'Abbé Moigno: and you find it ridiculous that they tell you of what manner Madame the mother of Sir Newton write her prénoms. She was clever dame, Mister! that prove it by the anagramme. I must serve myself of this only word French, for your English ne l'a pas. Take the phrase

A so cunning woman she est.

Make the changes necessary in the order of the letters, and you shall have

Miss Anne Ascough Newton.

I show this to M. l'Abbé Moigno. I am his familiar, and he laugh under, and he tell me, My dear, communicate tout cela to the journal bad pleasant the *Athenæum* English, and they will rest in a conviction perfect of the réalité of the lettres. Salut the most friendly.

"DE LA MOUETTE."

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lated fo-
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French
Enough

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We are not sure that our friend gives the worst of the arguments : but we can give him the worst of the argument. Strike out *Newton*, the only one of the four words which *Hannah Ayscough* could ever have signed ; the other three resolve themselves into

So ! sign such a name !

being what the lady might be expected to exclaim if she could come back and see what has been done for her. Should any one object to our removing *Newton*, we have him thus—

Sign such a name, son ! not we !

On inquiry, we find reason to think that M. de La Mouette—whose friendly salutation we return with all our hearts, and who is as perfect in his English as an advocate of the forgeries can be—is employed in the office of *Les Mondes*, and translates for the editor. His letter reminded us of a good deal—*invertdoto*, as the geometers say—of the account given of our former article in the French journal.

Enough for one time. The compliments of the season to all our friends, especially to the Abbé Moigno and Mr. James Smith, who goes on writing to us—but genuine letters, remember—at a rate which will soon bring him up to the pascally forger in spoliation of paper. He has sent us 197 pages of letter paper in 93 days ; being about $2\frac{1}{2}$ pages one day with another. This is allowing himself a discount of 32 per cent. for prompt payment, or 1 in 3.

GOOD GOSSIPPISS MYNE A !

HERE is the "capital song," as we called it, from the Balliol Manuscript 354, Richard Hill's Common-place Book, A.D. 1470-1534, back of leaf 206. The song gives a picture of the weekly gathering of a set of town goodwives, gossips, or cronies, for their regular seventh-day jollification ; and very good fun it is. It may go alongside of Skelton's "Elynor Rummyng," and illustrates the greater freedom allowed to women in earlier English times, shown not only in the well-known scene in "Piers Plowman" where Cesse the cobbler's wife, Wat the warrener's wife, and Rose the disher, go with Glutton and his fellows into Bet the brewster's alehouse, but also in women's membership of guilds, their trading, &c. The italics below mark the expansions of contractions in the manuscript. The first three lines were the under-song, sung low by several people; while the song itself was sung in relief upon it, by one singer. Ritson printed a version of this song widely different from the present one in his "Ancient Songs," p. 77. Mr. T. Wright's version, in "Songs and Carols," Percy Society, 1847, p. 91, is nearly the same as this, but omits the last line of each stanza. It has two more weak verses at the end, not nearly so good as Ritson's concluding stanzas.

Hoow, gossip myne, gossip myne !
Whaz will we go to the wyne,
Good gossipis ?

I shall you tell a fullle good sport,
how gossipis gader them on a sort,
ther sekis bodies to conforte
when they mete
In land or stret,
Good gossipis myne !

But I dare not for ther disspleasans
telle of thes maters half the substance;
but yet sumwhat of ther gouernaunce,
as ferre as I dare,
I will declare,
good gossipis myne !

"Good gossip myn, wher haue ye be ?
hit is so long sith i you see.
wher is the best wyne ? tell ye me :
cane ye ought telle ?"
"ye, fulle well,
good gossipis myne !

"I know a drawght of mery-go-down ;
the best it is in alle this towne ;
but yet I wolde not for my gowne,
my husband wiste,
ye may triste,
Good gossipis myne !

"Calle forth own gossipis by and by,
Elynore, Johane and Margery,
Margret, Alis and Cecely ;
for ther will cum,
both alle and som,
Good gossipis myne a !

"And echo of them will sum what bryng,—
Gose or pigge, or capons wynges,
pastes of pygynes, or sum other thynge,—
for we muste etc
sum maner mette,
Good gossipis myn a !

"Go before by tweyne and tweyne,
wiche, that ye be not seeme,
for I myste home, and cum a-gayne
to wite yws
wher my husband ys,
Good gossipis myne a !"

(Leaf 207.)

"A stripe or two god myght send me
yf my husband myght here see me."
"she that is a ferde, lett her flee !"
quod Alis a ;

"I dred no man,
Good gossipis myn a !"

"Now be we in the tauerne sett :
a draught of yowres best, lett hym fette,
to bryng owe husbandis out of dette,
for we will send
tille god more send,
Good gossipis myn a !"

Eche of them brought forth ther drasse ;
sum brought fleshe and sum (brought) fisses.
Quod margret meke, "now with a wisshe
I wold Anne were here ;
she wold make vs cheare,
Good gossipis myn a !

"How say ye, gossipis, is this wyne good ?"
"it is it," quod Elynore, "by the Rode !
it chereth the hart and comforteth the blod :
such lonkers amone
shale make vs le long,
Good gossipis !"

Anne bade fille a pot of muscadelle ;
"ffor of alle wynes I love it well,
swet wynes kepe my body in hele,
yf I had it nowght
I shal take thought,
Good gossipis myn a !"

"How leke ye, gossipis, at the bordis end ?
not mery, gossipis ? god it amend !
alle shal be well, ell god defend !
be mery and glad,
and sit not so late,
Good gossipis myne a !"

"Wold god I had don after your covnselle !
ffor my husband is so fele,
he beth me lyke the deville of helle :
and the more I crye
the lessse mercy,
Good gossipis myne a !"

Alis with a lowde voys speake thane.
"Evis," she said : "Hittile good he came
that beftit or strikith any woman,
& specially his wif :
god geve hym short lyff,
Good gossipis myne a !"

Margret meke said, "so mot I thryve,
i know no man that is a lyve
that gerith me ij strokis, bvt he haue v.
I am not aferd
thowgh he haue a berde,
Good gossipis myn a !"

On east downe her shot & went away.
"gossipis," quod Elynore, "what dide she pay ?"
"not a peny : loo, therfor I say
she shall no more
be of owe lere,
Good gossipis myn a !"

"Suche gestis we may haue nowyon
that will ne for ther shot alone.
with whom com she ? gossipis ? with you ?"
"nay," quod Johan,
"I come alone,
Good gossipis myne a !"

"Now rekyng owe shot, and go we hens.
what cummish to echo of vs but ij d.
parde, this is but a small expens
ffor such a sorte,
and alle but sorte,
Good gossipis myne a !"

(Leaf 207, back.)
"Torne downe the strel whan ye cum owt,
and we will cumpas round a-bowt."
"gossipis," quod anne, "what nedith that dowt ?
your husbandis pleased
whan ye be eased,
Good gossipis myne a !"

"What-so-euer any man thynke,
we com for nowght but for good drynkes,
now let vs go home and wynke,
ffor it may be seene
wher we haue bene,
Good gossipis myne a !"

This is the thought that gossipis take :
ons in the weke mery willie they make,
and alle smalle drynkis ther willie for-sake ;
but wyne of the best
shall haue no rest,
Good gossipis myne a !

† Iwls, A.-Sax. *gewis*, certainly.

Sum be at the tanern, twice, thrise in the weke,
and so be sum every day eke,
or ellis ther willie grone and make them seke ;
ffor thyngis used
will be refused,
God gossipis myn a !

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE Council of the Society of Arts have called a conference of persons interested in the subject of Technical Education, on Thursday, January 23, to meet in the Adelphi. Earl Granville and Earl Russell have promised to attend the meeting. The subject for consideration is, how best to promote the industrial and scientific education of the various classes of the community.

The researches in the Desert of Sinai of the late Capt. Henry T. Butler—who fell at Inkermann, then serving on the staff of the First Division—have induced his brother, the Rev. Pierce Butler (Rector of Ulcombe, Staplehurst), to make arrangements for securing an accurate topographical survey of that interesting region. The scheme has received the approval of the President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society ; and Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart., Sir John Herschel, Bart., and Colonel Sir Henry James (Director-General of the Ordnance Survey) have promised to further the undertaking by their co-operation and advice. Mr. Pierce Butler expects to leave England early in January, in order to make the requisite arrangements for the surveying party.

Mr. Furnivall is making a collection of Carols and Songs of the Nativity, set to music, from manuscripts for the most part inedited.

Caxton's Book of Courtesy, or Little John, with the MS. versions of it from the Balliol Manuscript LXXXIX. (the earliest copy known), and the Commonplace-book of Richard Hill, of Hill End, will probably be the first work of the Extra Series of the Early English Text Society for 1867 ; 'Havelok the Dane,' and Chaucer's Prose Works, Part II., being the second and third.

Col. Strachey has drawn up a report for the Indian Government, embodying some proposals for the introduction of new standards of weight and measure in British India. That country is no exception to the rule that in every province or district there is a different weight and measure, leading to great confusion, and not unfrequently to loss in mercantile intercourse. The new standards proposed are *mètre*, *kilogramme*, and *litre*, with their multiples and subdivisions ; to which terms there are strong objections, as was shown when the Battle of the Standards was fought here in England a year or two ago. The *mètre* is to be 39-3708 inches, the *kilogramme* 2-20 lb., and the *litre* 0-88 quart. Are we to see docility in India, in relation to a measure which in England provoked powerful opposition ?

From New Year's Day Mr. E. S. Dallas will assume the duties of Editor of *Once a Week*.

'Vittoria Colonna, her Life and Poems,' is the title of a new work by Mrs. Henry Roscoe.

That extraordinary repertory of old English relics, the receding sea-beach of Cheshire, has lately disclosed two interesting, and we believe unpublished, coins of the Saxon period, which a young collector, Mr. J. R. Allen, of Liverpool, has had the good fortune of securing. The earlier in point of date is a *saccata*, a variety of a well-known but puzzling type, which has been referred by numismatists to two early kings of Kent, viz. Ethelbert the First and Second, but without certainty, inasmuch as no name appears upon it. A second, and also unpublished variety, occurred here two years ago, but the present is a fine and perfect example, weighing seventeen grains. The presence of these presumably Kentish coins at so distant a locality is remarkable, as such have hitherto been discovered only in the south-east of England. The other piece proves to be a *halfpenny* of Edward the Confessor, the place of mintage being represented by *s v*, probably Southwark or Southampton. So rare are the Saxon halfpennies that, previously to the celebrated "Cuerdale find," only two were known,—those published in Ruding's "Annals of the Coinage." It

is a noteworthy fact, that of the various coins found here, and which represent every portion of the national history, from the intercourse of our ancestors with Carthage in pre-Roman times, downward, the *Saxon* prove to be in by far the finest condition; and whilst elsewhere such occur in hoards more or less large, here they reappear singly; in point of fact, where lost by their former owners, the admixture of arboreal matter in the soil from whence they are washed fortunately protecting them from excessive oxidation. A more specific description of the above-named pieces will be given in Mr. Ercroy Smith's annual report of the archeological discoveries on the Cheshire shore, supplied to the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

A subscription list in aid of the Palestine Exploration Fund has been opened at the Institute of British Architects.

Mr. Rudolph Lehmann has been invited by the Keeper of the National Gallery, in Florence, to add his portrait, painted by himself, to the collection of masters of the Italian school. Mr. Lehmann, we understand, is giving up his Roman studio, meaning, in future, to reside in London.

Thirty years ago Mr. Timbs began to collect the 'Curiosities of London.' A dozen years ago he published his collection of odds and ends, in a volume which enjoyed a considerable amount of public favour. But time brings many changes in a capital like London, every street in which is gradually growing rich in story; and Mr. Timbs has found it necessary to enlarge his book. In a new edition, which the Messrs. Longmans & Co. have just issued, he has brought his account of London down to the latest dates.

The following Year-books and Calendars for 1868 have been published, and are now on our table:—*Lett's Diary and Bills Due Book*,—*Lett's Gentleman's Washing Book*,—*Lett's British Tariff*,—*Lett's Office Calendar*,—*The Protestant Dissenters' Almanac and Political Annual*,—*Watson's Family Expenditure Book*,—and *Rees's Improved Diary and Almanack*.

Mr. Chappuis has issued a number of ingenious Christmas toys for the boys and girls having more or less of either a scientific or an artistic basis. The first is called the Children's Camera: a cubical chamber, with a lens at one end, a surface-glass at the other, which sheds on the glass a picture of every object caught by the lens. A second is called Mysterious Correspondence, and contains the materials for writing letters in invisible ink. Next we have two paper packets of Photographic Puzzles, consisting of lines of humorous story, cut up into bits, and requiring to be fitted and read. Marian and Ella, critics of nine and ten, declare that these puzzles are very funny. Then we have an album called Photographic Touches; a book of comic originals, in which the sport is mainly got by treating sentiment as a farce.

The Egyptian Hall, Mansion House, is about to be re-decorated at a cost of nearly 3,000.

London topographers should at least take note that the so-called haunted houses at the corner of Stamford Street and the Blackfriars Road, which have been associated in so many juvenile imaginations with horrid stories, are now announced as "to let." The waste and ill-feeling that have been induced by the "law's delay" in this case are only paralleled by those which marked the even more lamentable circumstances of the house which Godwin occupied in Skinner Street, Snow Hill, and, until a railway destroyed it, which remained in wreck.

Mr. E. Arber, and his publishers, Murray & Son, propose to issue a series of 'English Reprints' in sixpenny and shilling volumes, of works like Milton's 'Areopagitica,' Latimer's Sermon on the Ploughers, Gosson's 'School of Abuse,' and the Apologie for it,' Sydney's 'Apologie for Poetrie,' &c. Berners's translation of Froissart, Fairfax's 'Tasso,' Lilly's 'Euphues,' &c. are also promised, in their original spelling. May the scheme prosper and the Berners appear soon! With the revived taste for good English books for schools, what can be better than these cheap tracts of Milton, Latimer, Sydney,

and the like? But we advise the editor not wilfully to reprint the manifest misprints of the old editions. It is surely more sensible to correct them, noting the mistakes at the foot of the page.

The Owens College (Manchester) subjects for the Early English Text Society's prize next year, are: 1. The History of English Versification before Chaucer. 2. Rudiments of Anglo-Saxon Grammar. 3. Wydiffe's Gospel of St. Mark ('Morris's Specimens,' pages 291-332).

The new drama in which Mr. Fechter is to appear at the Adelphi at Christmas is founded on 'No Thoroughfare' (in *All the Year Round*). The drama is by the authors of the story, Mr. C. Dickens and Mr. W. Collins.

Mrs. Scott-Siddons's engagement at the New Queen's Theatre is "off." It was proposed that the lady should appear as *Julia* to Miss Ellen Terry's *Helen* in 'The Hunchback,' but this proposal was declined, and the lady and manager appear to have parted.

Dr. Stratmann, of Krefeld, has just finished his 'Dictionary of the Old English Language, compiled from Writings of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Centuries.' The concluding part of the work, Part VII., is now before us. The book is by far the best and most thorough one on its subject that has yet been published. The glossaries of Mr. Halliwell and Mr. Wright are of modern provincialisms more than Old English, and contain few etymologies worth speaking of. The Glossarial Index of Herbert Coleridge ranges only from 1250 to 1300 A.D., and though it is an excellent book for that period, yet its name of Index shows that its writer intended it for little more than a list of words, with meanings and references. Dr. Stratmann's book is really a Dictionary, and one carefully edited by a sound and diligent scholar. Taking one example at hazard, the word *the*, we find nearly two pages given to it: first, the Anglo-Saxon and Old-Saxon, and Old High German equivalents are given; then, with examples and references, its first meaning, *he*; its 2nd, *who* (the *the*, *he who*); 3rd, *the*; 4th, its use for *that*, *thee*, *tham* (cases of it); 5th, its feminine *theo*, *the*, *thel*; 6th, its neuter, *that*, *thaet*, with examples of its use as a demonstrative, relative, and conjunction, and for its cases as *than*, *theo*, &c.; 7th, the genitive *thes*, with its analogues as a masculine and neuter; 8th, the genitive and dative feminine, *there*, *ther*, *thare*; 9th, the dative masculine and neuter, *than*, (*at*) *ten*, *thon*, *tham*; 10th, the accusative masculine *thane*, *thene*; 11th, the nominative and accusative plural, *tho*, *thae*, *thea*, *theo*, *thoa*, *tho*, *thai*, *thet*, with the use of *tha*, *tho*, &c. as relatives, and for some of their cases; 12th, the genitive plural, *thare*, *ther*; 13th, the dative plural, *tham*, *thän*, *theym*, *thon*, *then*. We know no other treatment of the transition stages of the declension of our article so complete, and every step of it is proved by examples. The Dictionary is a credit to Dr. Stratmann, a real gain to English lexicography.

The chairman of the Royal Polytechnic Institution has issued cards for an evening reception on Saturday next week, December 21.

The official report of the Manchester Free Library for this year bears ample evidence of the great utility of that institution. During the year ending September 6, 1867, the number of visitors to the libraries and news rooms was 1,882,000, and for the previous year 1,387,530. The aggregate annual issue of books was 673,432, being an increase over the previous year of 240,934. There have been 6,225 volumes added to the Library during this year, and two branch lending libraries have been erected, one in Rusholme Road, and one in Every Street.

Not long ago some human remains were discovered at Diglis, Worcester, which were supposed to be the bones of soldiers who had fallen in the battle of Worcester. A skeleton, which fell to pieces when exposed to the air, has now been found in the same locality.

Dr. Lommel's theory of the glowing colours of sunrise and sunset, originally published in Poggendorff's *Annalen*, has given occasion to Mr.

Sorby to make known in the *Philosophical Magazine* that in March last he read a paper before the Sheffield Literary and Philosophical Institute, on the colour of the clouds and sky, in which, as appears from the printed summary, much of the learned German's explanation is anticipated. Transparent vapour of water absorbs mostly the red rays of light, while the lower strata of the atmosphere offer most resistance to the passage of the blue rays. By these two simple facts, the glorious phenomena seen at dawn and eve are accounted for. Of course it must be understood that the sun is low; for directly overhead the sky looks blue, and the quantity of transparent watery vapour may be estimated by the colour: the darker the blue the more vapour—a fact which meteorologists may avail themselves of. Mr. Sorby shows how all the tints—green, yellow, purple, orange—that are seen at times around the rising or setting sun are produced; and he may perhaps expect a remonstrance from poets and sentimental people, who, regarding the magnificence of the eastern and western sky as of celestial origin, will be shocked to learn that it is terrestrial, and due for the most part to impurities in the lower strata of our atmosphere.

An International Maritime Exhibition, on a very extensive scale, will be held in Havre next year. It will be under the patronage of the Emperor of the French, and will be open from the 1st of June to the 31st of October. The exhibition will comprise forty-three classes; twenty-three of which will be devoted to shipping, ten to various articles of commerce, five to fishing vessels and appliances, one to pisciculture, and four to supplementary and miscellaneous objects. There will also be a salt-water aquarium on a vast scale. Demands for space must be made to the Direction of the Exhibition, Hôtel de Ville, Havre.

Baron Haussmann's official report of what may be called the rebuilding of Paris shows that during the year terminating on the 1st of October last, 2,325 houses, containing 14,287 separate apartments, were demolished; while during the same period 3,809 houses, containing 23,753 apartments, were erected. The greater portion of the new constructions are in the outlying districts between the boulevards and the fortifications. The report states that in the entire department of the Seine the number of houses built during the last fifteen years has been 86,944; and the number demolished, 21,641.

Everybody knows Horace's Jew Apella: but very few indeed remember, if they ever heard it, that the prodigium which is turned over to his credulity is a prototype of the blood of St. Januarius. The town of Egnatia is ridiculed for expecting travellers to believe that incense is liquefied without heat in its temple—

—flamma sine thura liquescere limine sacro
Persuaderet cupit. Credit Judæus Apella,
Non ego.

I will not believe the fact, says Horace: and why? Because—he goes on to say—I have learnt that if Nature does a wonder, it is not to be attributed to the gods. Precisely the reasoning of many in our own day.

For a Brazilian, or rather a Portuguese, resident in Rio de Janeiro, to have published a stout quarto volume on a scientific subject, is a phenomenon worth notice, and is, we hope, an earnest that the author—Mr. A. A. Ferreira—has more to follow. In the present work, 'Hydrologie Générale,' he treats of the nature, qualities, and uses of the various kinds of water, and has, we observe, made his analyses by means of the spectroscope. This is employing spectrum analysis to good purpose; and spectroscopists generally will be gratified to know that their favourite instrument has been taken into use in South America.

Our old friend and Correspondent Mr. Henry J. Morgan, of Ottawa, has completed his laborious compilation, 'Bibliotheca Canadensis.' In this volume Mr. Morgan has collected with care and presented on a good plan an alphabetical list of the writers of books, pamphlets, and contributions to periodicals who are connected with Canada—Canada the Great—the New Dominion, as it is called beyond the waters. Of course it is not

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THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—The WINTER EXHIBITION of SKETCHES and STUDIES by the Members is NOW OPEN, 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s. Gas on dark days.

WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

DUDLEY GALLERY, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—The FIRST WINTER EXHIBITION of CABINET PICTURES in OIL, is OPEN Daily from Ten till Six. On dark days and at dusk, the Gallery is lit with gas.—Admittance, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.

GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

THE THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION of WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS is NOW OPEN at T. M'LEAN'S New Gallery, 7, Haymarket, next door to the Theatre.

MR. MORBY'S COLLECTION of MODERN HIGH-CLASS PICTURES is ON VIEW at the Royal Exchange, Fine Arts Gallery, 1, Cornhill. The Collection consists of Pictures by R. Bonheur—F. Walker Stanfield, R.A.—Meissonnier—Alma Tadema—G. F. Watts—L. Landelle—T. Faed, R.A.—John Phillip, R.A.—Leslie, R.A.—D. Roberts, R.A.—Frith—A. Goodall, R.A.—Cooke, R.A.—Pickersgill, R.A.—Erskine Nicoll, A.R.A.—Le Jeune, A.R.A.—Ansdell, A.R.A.—Prestwich, R.A.—Petrie, R.A.—Yeames, A.R.A.—Dobson, A.R.A.—Cooper, A.R.A.—Gale—Mark—Lidderdale—George Smith—Linnell, sen.—Peter Graham—Oaks—H. W. B. Davis—Baxter. Also Drawings by Hunt, Cox, Birkin Foster, Duncan, Topham, F. Walker, E. Warren, &c.—Admission on presentation of address card.

SCIENCE

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Dec. 12.—General Sabine, President, in the chair.—The following papers were read: 'On the Special Action of the Pancreas on Fat and Starch,' by Dr. Dobell,—'On a Supposed Connexion between the Amount of Rainfall and the Changes of the Moon,' by Mr. J. H. N. Hennessey,—and 'Researches carried on at the Pathological Laboratory of St. Thomas's Hospital,' Series I. and II., by Dr. J. L. W. Thudichum.

ASTRONOMICAL.—Dec. 13.—Admiral Manners in the chair.—The Earl of Rosse, Messrs. Gill and W. Cotterell were elected Fellows.—The following papers were read: 'On the November Meteors, 1867,' by Mr. E. J. Lowe,—'On the November Meteors as observed in America,' by Mr. Kirkwood,—'New Laws of Planetary and Satellitary Motions,' by Mr. Glennie,—'Rotation of Mars,' by Mr. Proctor,—'On the Colours of Stars,' by Mr. Browning,—'On the Total Solar Eclipse of 1868, August 17-18,' by the Astronomer Royal,—'Remarks on the Value of the Solar Parallax,' by Mr. Stone,—'On Bessel's Mean Rectifications,' by Mr. Stone,—and 'An Attempt to facilitate the Prediction of Occultations and Eclipses,' by Mr. Penrose.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Dec. 12.—Dr. C. S. Peacock, Director, in the chair.—Mr. J. Y. Akerman exhibited a Roman silver ring found at Wantage, with the device of two sea-horses.—Mr. A. W. Franks exhibited, by permission of E. Romilly, Esq., a curious pewter object found in a tomb at Porth Kerr Church, and probably intended to contain holy water.—Mr. R. W. Binns exhibited a gold ring set with a portrait, of the fifteenth century; and a silver wedding casket, of the time of James the First, with inscription in Dutch and coats of arms.—Padre Garucci communicated some remarks on the Chair of St. Peter at Rome, in connexion with the uncovering of that chair on the recent anniversary of St. Peter.—Dr. J. Thurnam communicated an interesting paper 'On the Ancient Barrows of this country, and especially of Wiltshire and the adjoining Counties.'

ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Dec. 6.—Octavius Morgan, Esq., M.P., in the chair.—A paper 'On Medieval Military Architecture' by Mr. G. T. Clark was read. The author remarked that the study of the art of construction had mainly been approached from the ecclesiastical side. Adverting to the claims of military structures to the consideration of the antiquary, the earliest vestiges of fortified places were noticed, and the manner in which many of them were successively occupied and altered, as in the instance of Windsor Castle,

which had probably passed through every stage in history, from that of a British camp to a modern palace. The great variety in the conditions of many of the English castles was noticed, together with the subject of the origin of the use and form of such structures. Up to the present time no good account of them had been written, and the author passed in review the attempts of county historians and other writers to deal with the subject. As to the early use of towers of masonry, there could be no doubt they were brought into England from the Continent, where it was absolutely necessary to possess such places of strength; and the writer dwelt at some length on the condition of many such places in France, and the labours of modern French antiquaries in elucidating their history and characteristics. The result of the Conquest was to cause the erection of many such structures in England by the great families who played so important a part in the subsequent history of the country, and the author brought this portion of his sketch to an end by a general description of a castellated building in the eleventh century.—The Rev. Canon Scarth sent an account of the recent explorations at Silbury Hill, Wilts. These were undertaken to endeavour to determine whether the Roman road ran under the Hill, or wound round it, and with that object trenches were dug in various directions. The Wiltshire Archaeological Society is having plans and sections made, without which the subject could not be well understood. Mr. Scarth enumerated the objects found in the course of these works, and adverted to the works carried on under the auspices of the Institute in 1849. The original object of the Hill was still uncertain; but the direction of the Roman roads in its neighbourhood had been ascertained beyond doubt.—Dr. Rock called the attention of the meeting to a beautiful example of a pectoral cross of gold, exhibited by the gracious permission of Her Majesty. It was of the fifteenth century; had traces of enamel, and the initials of Our Lord on the four limbs. It was doubtless English work, and had probably belonged to an Abbess or other distinguished person. The chain was original and curious. The cross was found at Clare Castle, Suffolk, in 1865, in the course of some railway excavations. The obverse presents a small crucifix, not in relief, but chased on a plate of gold; a pearl is affixed at each angle of the intersection; and the reverse is beautifully decorated with trailing ornament wrought like the *opus punctatum* of the mediæval artificers.—Some notes, by Mr. Albert Way, on examples of the badge of a crown represented in sepulchral memorials of the Tudor period were read. An example of those memorials was exhibited, and Mr. Way referred to other existing instances, and to the question of the badge being exclusively that of a yeoman of the crown, or generally of a servant of the sovereign. Mr. Hewitt drew attention to some additional examples of such badges.—Mr. R. H. Soden Smith exhibited a bronze three-legged pot, 12 inches high and 9½ in diameter, found in 1860, when ploughing, on the property of Mr. Sitwell at Barnmoor Castle, Northumberland. It was probably of mediæval date. Also a silver peg drinking-cup, made out of a Druse's head-ornament.—The Hon. W. O. Stanley, M.P., exhibited a stone grain-crusher, polishing stones or bones; and a spindle-whorl, found in or near the hut circles on Holyhead Mountain.—Mrs. A. Kerr exhibited original documents relating to the manor of Froyle, Hants, consisting of accounts and court rolls, Edward the Third to Edward the Fourth; together with two accounts of the Abbess of St. Mary, Winchester (to which house Froyle then belonged), in the reign of Henry the Third.—A lease of a wharf at Deptford, to which John Evelyn's signature was attached, was also shown by Mrs. Kerr.—Mr. O. Morgan exhibited an enamel miniature of Prince Charles Edward, and one of George the Third when Prince of Wales; an enamel snuff-box recording the victories of Frederick the Great at Rossbach and Lissa in 1757, with portrait of the King on the lid; two rings of *pietra dura* work in relief, time of Louis the Fifteenth; and a hexagonal table clock, with the name "B. Couldroit," about

A.D. 1540-50.—The Rev. R. P. Coates exhibited photographs of some early interments at Darent, Kent.—Mr. Shout exhibited photographs of ornaments at Yeovil Church, and the remains of a mason's rule of the fourteenth century, found in the south-west angle of the tower of that church; together with a small iron ladle found there.—The Rev. J. Beck exhibited some gold ornaments.

—Messrs. Lambert exhibited a fine processional cross of Florentine work, with the back richly decorated; a *Monstrance*, of the *cinq-cento* period; three tankards, seventeenth century; a chalice; a crystal vase; two salt-cellars; a table striking clock of lead, painted, of German work; a book-rest, &c.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—Dec. 16.

—Mr. Charles Barry, V.P., in the chair.—The discussion was taken on a paper read a short time ago by Prof. Ansted 'On the Relations of Geology with Architecture.'—A description of the proposed School of Art at Bombay was given by Mr. W. Burges, the architect employed for that building.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Dec. 12.—Dr. J. E. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—An extract was read from a letter received from Dr. J. Kirk, relating to some of the animals of Zanzibar.—Dr. Peters communicated a note on the question of the Homology of the quadratus bone in the class Aves, in which he controverted the view recently maintained by Prof. Huxley as to its supposed correspondence with the *incus* in the mammalia.—The Secretary called the attention of the meeting to the fact of an Eland, bred in this country, having been exhibited by Lord Hill at the Show of the Smithfield Club

—being the first instance of the introduction of this animal to the meat-markets of Europe.—Mr. W. H. Flower read some notes on the anatomy of *Hyemoschus aquaticus*, founded on a specimen of this mammal recently deceased in the Society's Menagerie.—Mr. St. George Mivart read some additional notes on the Osteology of the Lemuridae, in continuation of a former communication on this subject.—Dr. J. Hector communicated a notice of the discovery of an egg of the Great Moa (*Dinornis gigantea*), containing an embryo, found in the province of Otago, New Zealand, at a depth of about two feet below the surface.—Dr. J. E. Gray read some notes on the mollusks of the genus *Catillus*, including the description of two new allied genera of this group; he also communicated a description of a new Spider Monkey discovered on the affluents of the Peruvian Amazon, by Mr. E. Bartlett, and proposed to be called *Atelos Bartlettii*; and of a new species of *Ampullaria* from Sierra Leone, proposed to be called *A. ornata*.—Messrs. P. L. Sclater and O. Salvin communicated a list of Birds collected at Pebas, Upper Amazon, by Mr. J. Hauxwell, with notes and descriptions of new species. Mr. Hauxwell's collection was stated to have contained 135 species, four of which were considered to have been hitherto undescribed.—They also communicated a list of the first collection of Birds formed by Mr. H. Whitley, jun., in South-Western Peru, in the neighbourhood of Lima and Arequipa. The series consisted of upwards of fifty species, many of which were of great interest.—Mr. J. Gould read a note on the Australian genus *Climacteris*, including the description of a new species of the genus proposed to be called *C. pyrrhonota*.—Dr. J. E. Gray made some observations upon Dr. Bowerbank's paper on *Hyalonema Lusitanicum*, read at the last meeting, maintaining the accuracy of his own views as to its being generically different from *H. mirabile*; and on the skins and skeletons of the Rhinoceroses in the British Museum. Amongst these Dr. Gray believed that he had detected a skull belonging to a species hitherto undescribed, which he proposed to call *Rhinoceros simocephalus*.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 17.

—Annual General Meeting.—J. Fowler, Esq., President, in the chair.—The Report of the Council was read. The premiums awarded for some of the communications brought forward last Session (and which were presented after the reading of the Report), included Telford Medals and Telford

Premiums of Books to Messrs. J. T. Chance, M.A., and E. Byrne,—a Telford Medal to the Astronomer Royal,—a Watt Medal to Col. Sir W. Denison,—a Watt Medal and a Telford Premium of Books to Mr. J. Bourne,—Telford Premiums of Books to Capt. W. H. Tyler and Messrs. W. H. Preece and W. A. Brooks,—and the Manby Premium of Books to Mr. C. D. Fox. It was noted that Col. Sir W. Denison, Capt. Tyler, Mr. W. A. Brooks and Mr. W. H. Preece had previously received Telford Medals from the Institution. The following gentlemen were elected to fill the several offices on the Council for the ensuing year:—C. H. Gregory, President; J. Cubitt, T. E. Harrison, T. Hawksley and C. Vignoles, Vice-Presidents; J. Abernethy, W. H. Barlow, J. F. Bateman, J. W. Bazalgette, N. Beardmore, F. J. Bramwell, J. Brunlees, G. W. Hemans, J. Murray, and G. R. Stephenson, Members; and J. H. Lloyd, and Capt. H. W. Tyler, Associates.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Dec. 11.—W. H. Hawes, Esq., Chairman of the Council, in the chair.—The paper read was, ‘On Industrial and Scientific Education, with Notes on the Systems pursued and the Works produced in Continental Schools, as exemplified in the Paris Exhibition, and Suggestions for the Establishment of Trade Schools in England,’ by Mr. E. A. Davidson.

MATHEMATICAL.—Dec. 12.—Prof. Sylvester, President, in the chair.—The candidate proposed for election was Mr. H. Perigal.—Sir J. G. Shaw Lefevre and Mr. W. S. B. Woolhouse were elected Members.—The following communications were made: ‘The Logarithms of Imaginary Quantities,’ and ‘The Algorithmic Relations of the Double Tangents of the Quartic Curve,’ by Prof. Cayley,—‘On the Theory of Probability applied to Straight Lines drawn at Random on a Plane,’ by Mr. Crofton,—and ‘On a Law of Periodicity in the Derivation of Point from Point on Cubic Curves, and its Connexion with the Theory of Allineation,’ by the President.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.
THURS. AND SAT. Royal Institution, 3.—Heat and Cold (Juvenile Lectures), Prof. Tyndall.

FINE ARTS

PRESERVATION OF FRESCOES.

Kensington, Dec. 13, 1867.

I have just seen the interesting ‘Memoranda,’ on this subject in your last issue by Prof. Church, and shall be obliged if you will allow me space for a word or two of explanation.

I need hardly say that I consider myself singularly fortunate in having my choice of materials so strongly confirmed by an independent observer like Prof. Church; but lest it should be thought that I have overlooked the defect in paraffin to which he alludes, viz., its tendency to crystallize, I would just supplement your previous notice by saying that in all the solutions used at Westminster the defect has been remedied by the use of a small proportion of American block wax. This addition effectually destroys all tendency to crystallize, causes the residuum to solidify within the pores of the fresco into a hard, compact mass, binds the loose particles closely together, and completely excludes atmospheric influences. The adoption of this material was decided upon after much anxious thought, and many experiments upon a great variety of substances, including several kinds of varnish. Nothing, however, gave such satisfactory results as American wax, because nothing so completely fulfilled the required conditions of hardness, resistance to atmospheric influence, and neutrality as to colour.

In applying the solution, it has not been found necessary to abjure the use of soft brushes, or to resort to any kind of spray-producer, as suggested by Prof. Church; for, notwithstanding that much has been written, and more said, about the “destruction” of the frescoes in the Houses of Parliament, this “destruction” has been very limited in extent, and cannot be said to have been anywhere more than in course of progress. The

few parts most damaged in the Dyce frescoes have been entirely repainted by Mr. Cope, and Mr. Ward has restored what was injured in his own; and now that the surfaces have been saturated with the paraffin solution, it is the opinion of these gentlemen that the frescoes have been restored to the nation in a state very little, if at all, inferior to their original condition. Of their preservation in the future there is hardly room for doubt; and there is, therefore, no reason why the noble art of fresco-painting should not be as generally adopted in England as it has been in Italy.

With respect to the water-glass paintings, I quite concur in what Prof. Church says as to the possibility of removing the “siliceous bloom” from the dark shadows by the use of a solution similar to that used on the Dyce frescoes; and I have little doubt that when so treated they will be secure from all further injury from our climate, and be practically indestructible.

F. WRIGHT.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.

Mr. G. F. Watts has been elected full member of the Royal Academy.

The widow of the late Dr. Woollaston has presented to the Art-Library of the South Kensington Museum a valuable series of drawings of Greek and Roman mosaics, to be found in Spain, France, Pompeii, Prussia, Halicarnassus, Switzerland, Rome, and Italy generally, Constantine, Carthage, and also in various counties of England, which had been executed for Dr. Woollaston.

Mr. Sidney Cooper has, it is reported, purchased a house in St. Peter's Street, Canterbury, which he intends for an experimental school of art; if the experiment is appreciated by the Canterbury folks, the artist will bestow the place on the corporation of the city, to be continued in its intended service.

Haydon's best picture, ‘The Raising of Lazarus,’ so long and so well known on the staircase at the Pantheon, Oxford Street, has been obtained for the National Gallery, British School. Readers will remember the strange account given of the painting of this picture in Haydon's autobiography: for the head of Lazarus the model was the painter's pupil Bewick, whose death was recorded not long since.

Mr. G. G. Scott will deliver his lectures on Architecture at the Royal Academy on Thursday evenings, January the 23rd and 30th, and February 6th, 1868, at 8 P.M.

Mr. Beresford-Hope, at a recent meeting of the Institute of British Architects, when stating his purpose to call the attention of the House of Commons to the state of buildings possessing archaeological or historical interest in the custody of public departments, said that he would be grateful to any member of the Institute for information on the subject. As we suppose this intimation was, to a certain extent, general, we inform Mr. Beresford-Hope that not long since the very finely-designed chapel in Beaumaris Castle, although yet perfect, leaked lamentably through the vault. We understand that there is a large gunpowder store close to Tynemouth Castle.

Mr. Antonio Brady, the zealous promoter of museums for the East of London, writes to correct the mistakes into which Lord Redesdale, as appeared by his recent speech on the subject, has fallen; also to explain the true state of the case. The Bill for forming a museum in the eastern half of the metropolis, where, as we have often pointed out, no public educational establishment of the kind exists, stands over at present for further consideration; it is not a local affair, but national, and designed to utilize some of the treasures which are now hidden. The history of the matter, according to Mr. Brady, is as follows:—The three gentlemen named in the Bill offered to raise money to pay for the site in question; the late Government accepted this offer, and recommended the scheme to Parliament. On the change of Ministry, the matter slept until Mr. Brady and his colleagues renewed their offer to the present Government; so that it was again accepted, and Parliament voted funds in aid; a Bill was drawn up empowering the trustees to

make over the land to the Department of Science and Art, which is already empowered to accept the same, and any trust for the purposes of scientific and artistic collection. Let us hope that the thing may soon be done; for it is a crying shame, that while it is proposed to remove half, and that the most popular half, of the British Museum to a western suburb, that museum itself should be the sole national collection of works of art and nature near the true centre of London—this centre is Lincoln's Inn Fields. The Tower can hardly be called a museum; besides, its armories “pay” so well, that it is sometimes wondered why they are not removed to a more fashionable neighbourhood. What is needed for the east is an educational establishment of the popular nature of the South Kensington Museum; but, of course, on a smaller scale. This is the East London Museum of Science and Art Bill is designed to promote.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ST. GEORGE'S OPERA HOUSE.—Langham Place, Oxford Circus, under the direction of Mr. German Reed.—Offenbach's Operetta, ‘Puss in Petticoats,’ a New Comic Opera: ‘The Contrabandista,’ a Comedy in One Act, and Offenbach's ‘Ching-Chow, Hi! Every Evening at Half-past Seven; Friday Morning at Two.—Admission, 1s., 2s., 3s., and 5s. Prime Boxes, 3s. and 2s. 2s.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Exeter Hall.—Conductor, Mr. Costa.—FRIDAY NEXT, December 22, will be repeated, the 26th Annual Christmas Performance of Handel's ‘MESSIAH.’ Principal Vocalists: Madame Lemmens-Scherringer, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. G. Perren, and Mr. Lewis Thomas. The Band and Chorus are now extensively available in Exeter Hall, will consist of as many as nearly 700 Performers.—Normal Staff, 10s. ed.; Numbered Galleries, 5s.; Boxes, Reserved, 5s.; Unreserved, 3s. Tickets now ready at the Society's Office, No. 6, Exeter Hall.

ST. GEORGE'S OPERA HOUSE.—The day of the week on which Mr. German Reed commenced his new enterprise in Langham Place, and the quantity of musical matter to be dealt with, precludes the possibility of our this week giving the notice which is due to Mr. Sullivan's new comic opera. Enough for the moment to state our conviction that the music is thoroughly charming, and marks another step upward in the career of our young composer. It gained an entire and legitimate success, in spite of a most poor representation, so far as the principal artists (Mr. Shaw excepted) were concerned.

LYCEUM.—On Friday and Saturday Miss Vestval took her benefit, and closed her engagement at this theatre, having made a decidedly good impression on the public in the character of Romeo. On these occasions she gave evidence besides of comic power, in the part of Massarini, so far as it is represented in the second act of ‘The Brigand,’ and at the end proved herself competent to the invention of very effective melo-dramatic business. By way of illustration, also, she sang the ‘Gentle Zziella’ in Italian, an English version of Gennaro's ‘Farewell to Life,’ and some vocal phrases in French and German, with much brilliancy, thus showing the extent of her accomplishments. Miss Vestval has now taken her place on the British stage, and we shall probably have to record her progress in other characters of the Shakspearian drama.

SADLER'S WELLS.—On Monday Miss Evelyn, from the Dublin Theatre, made her *début* on the English stage at this house. She appeared in the character of Juliet, and is also announced for Pauline and Beatrice during the week. She is evidently an Irish lady with considerable poetical enthusiasm, somewhat injured in its expression by a slight provincial accent; but her knowledge of the requisite stage-business is unquestionable.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.

The five hundredth performance of the *Sacred Harmonic Society*, held yesterday week, was—how did it fail to be?—one of very great interest and excitement. Not merely is it most gratifying to have lived to see such an institution grow up and prosper and improve within our borders,—especially for those who, like ourselves, recollect how the Ancient Concerts were provided for by Lancashire choristers.

singers, who made periodical journeys to London by coach, when such journey was some eight-and-twenty hours long, and when a Lenten oratorio was made up of such incongruities as 'Fixed in his Everlasting Seat' and 'Nid Noddin,'—but the heartiness of the compliment justly paid to the most valuable and valued of foreign musicians who has been naturalized in this country since Handel's time, in the production of Mr. Costa's 'Naaman,' was not to be overlooked. Of this Oratorio as a work, there is no need anew to speak—no need to point out how, as in the case of its predecessor, 'Eli,' the composer has modestly and solidly asserted his nationality, and avoided *in toto* everything like collision with the German composers. Both were received with all possible cordiality. The occasion was further signalized by the issue of a pamphlet by Mr. Bowley, setting forth simply, well and completely, the story of the birth, parentage and education of the Sacred Harmonic Society, and enumerating the most interesting events which have marked its career.—At this performance of 'Naaman,' Mdlle. Drasill replaced Madame Sainton-Dolby, who was prevented from singing by indisposition.

Her Majesty's Theatre is to be immediately rebuilt on a magnificent scale.

The destruction of this splendid building following other impeding circumstances is the reason why we must defer awhile any notices of Miss Kellogg beyond such as we can gather from unanimous praise, public and private, of her voice, her method, and her general musical and dramatic accomplishments. She has the golden gift of youth, too, so that opportunity will not be wanting to do her justice, and never was a time more favourable to rising talent than the present. Above all, her appearance in 'Linda,' an opera always a favourite of ours, which is at last taking its right place in London and Paris, is specified as especially excellent; and it was no light task to succeed in a part sustained here by such consummate artists as Madames Persiani and Sontag. While we are on the subject, we must also quote the admiration from every quarter of Mr. Santley's *Antonio* in 'Linda.' The moving "elemosina" scene in the second act, where the peasant receives alms from his daughter ere she recognizes her father, has probably never produced so much effect as when given by the American lady and the English gentleman. Meanwhile, the French journals (somewhat suspicious authorities) are in raptures over Mdlle. Patti's Linda.

Our Popular Concerts are going on with their usual spirit. Mr. Halle was the pianist on Saturday, as on Monday; M. Sainton the leading violinist. On the former morning Mr. Santley sang; on the latter evening, Madame Sinico, one of the most available artists who ever made her way without puff or pretension, but by the irresistible force of her available qualities, in this country.

The 'Messiah' performances, belonging to "the gracious and hallowed time," are everywhere taking place in England, according to time-honoured Christmas custom. There is something almost amounting to mockery in the echo of the angels' song, 'Peace on Earth,' heard at a moment when we have to do battle with such an outbreak of ruffianism as England has not known for many a year!

The inauguration of the New Music-Hall at Brighton took place on the last two days of last week. To judge from the accounts which have reached us, the room seems to be a handsome one, provided with a powerful organ. It appears, too, to have been prematurely opened, having not been complete when the concerts were given. Possibly to some confusion of the kind may be ascribed the fact that the tickets of admission sent us did not arrive till Saturday—too late to be available, had it been a duty to be present at the ceremony.

Beethoven's Choral Symphony is announced as about to be given at Sydenham to-day.

Yesterday the musical library of the late Mr. Edward Bates—descendant of Joah Bates, of Handel notoriety—was sold by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson.

Mr. W. Pole, whose merits as a clear and sensible writer on music we need not enumerate,

has just taken an Oxford Doctor's degree; the exercise which procured him such distinction having been a Mass.

It is said that 'Mignon' will be given at the Royal Italian Opera during the coming season.

We are assured that a very creditable performance of Mr. Costa's 'Eli' was the other evening given at Reading by the Philharmonic Society of that town.—The production of his 'Naaman' at Paris is, for the present, adjourned. Our neighbours cannot manage an oratorio.

New York papers tell us that Mr. Arthur Matthison, known here as a singer and a reader, has completed a play for one of the theatres, from which much is expected.

'Cardillac,' a new opera by M. Dautresme, a young composer of little mark, was given the other evening at the Théâtre Lyrique without success.

The conducting of M. Berlioz appears to be exciting a real sensation at St. Petersburg.

A life of Bellini, by that pleasant writer, M. Arthur Pougin, is announced.

The "pretty quarrel" between M. Choudens, the proprietor of the new 'Romeo,' and the German pirates who have pilfered his property of its themes, is raging still. M. Choudens announces his intention of protecting himself by law in every German town. The question, as we have heretofore said, is one of great nicety, involving the distinction between citation and theft. Meanwhile, the battle serves as an excellent advertisement to the opera, which is not M. Gounod's best.

The revival of Victor M. Hugo's 'Ruy Blas,' announced at the Odéon as the natural sequel to the success of his revival of his 'Hernani' at the Théâtre Français, has been stopped by the strong hand of Parisian censorship.

The theatre at Belleville, hard by Paris, has been burnt down.

Giovanni Pacini, whose death was announced last week, was one of the oldest and most facile composers of opera left to Italy—a man who, had he fallen on a better education, might have done good and lasting service to the musical stage, instead of leaving there little more than indications of a graceful and piquant talent. Four years younger than Signor Rossini, he was born at Catania in 1796, the son of a singer of some renown. Such education as he got was received at Rome, and, later, at Bologna, under Padre Mattei, among other masters. But at the early age of sixteen he rushed into composition by producing a trifling—'Annetta e Lucinda'—at Milan; and thenceforward to the end of his days Pacini's career was one of incessant production in every style of music. He had the misfortune of appearing at a moment when greater men than himself were abroad. The splendid and bewitching genius of Signor Rossini, accompanied by mannerism, was enough to bewilder a generation of weaker artists into a ready imitation of that which could be caught. Pacini could not approach the last scenes of 'Otello,' nor the apparition in 'Semiramide,' nor the deliciously fresh opening of 'La Donna del Lago,' but he could imitate the new and fascinating forms of cavatina and cabaletta; hence his operas, upwards of eighty in number, are deficient in originality, and as such are doomed to pass away. Among the scores he poured forth, there is not one which will keep its place by the side, not merely of the greatest Italian master, but with the two or three lasting operas of the assiduous Donizetti, or the more limited creations of the dreamy, elegant, yet slight Bellini. Yet there is nothing in either Donizetti's or Bellini's operas so freshly individual and audacious as Pacini's 'Niobe' Rondo. To have heard Pasta sing that is among the greatest of our musical recollections. There are other single songs of parade from the same hand, which show an original fancy in rhythm and ornament, and what no healthy opera-writer will neglect, opportunity for vocal display. There was no theme too high or too merry for Pacini to touch and to try. He was not afraid of 'Medes,' or of 'The Last Days of Pompeii,' not too proud to disdain such musical farces as 'Ser Marcantonio' and 'La Schiava in Bagdad,' the final rondo of which, by the way, though modelled on the exquisite variations from 'La Cenerentola,'—is not

after its kind to be despised. Then, he poured out hymns, symphonies, masses—seventeen in number—quartets, with fatal facility. It seems only like yesterday that we were listening, not without amusement, and amazement, to his 'Dante' Symphony, written for the great Florentine festival,—a work not without merit, though the same was ill laid out. We fancy that posterity will rank Pacini as above the Riccis, Pedrotti, Petrellas, who feed the Italian Opera-houses at the time present, above the correct but generally insipid Mercadante; of course below that fierce and stormy writer of dram-music, Signor Verdi. He was fertile and fearless, and sometimes shrewd, as a musical critic and memorialist.

Signor Piave, the popular Italian librettist, is dead.

MISCELLANEA

Modern Geography.—Having been asked by a relative, now on the Continent, to send her a good book on geography, suitable for the instruction of a little boy, I applied to my London bookseller, who has sent me a work so very remarkable, that, in justice to the publisher, I must begin by giving the title-page in full. It is as follows:—"Nelson's School Series. Modern Geography for the Use of Schools. By Robert Anderson, Head Master, Normal Institution, Edinburgh. Sixth Edition. London : T. Nelson & Sons, Paternoster Row; Edinburgh, and New York. 1868." Looking at this anticipatory date, I felt pleased to think that I had obtained a work certain to contain the most recent information. Beginning with America, I was a little startled to find that the United States were still divided into the free and the slaveholding. Ah! I thought, the author is a staunch Confederate, who cannot bring himself to accept his defeat as final. I turned to Italy. There I found that Ravenna, Bologna, and Ferrara still belonged to the Pontifical States; and on looking further I discovered that the States of the Church had never been curtailed by any King of Italy. Next came in due order the Kingdom of Sardinia, the Grand-Duchy of Tuscany, all the other duchies, quiet and comfortable, and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies undisturbed by Garibaldi. Lombardy and Venice were under the rule of Austria; the Ionian Islands formed a republic under the protection of Great Britain; the Germanic Confederation was intact; Denmark still retained Schleswig and Holstein, and was enriched by the Sound dues. Incidentally I learned that the East India Company was still flourishing, but had no authority over Ceylon, which was a Crown colony. Such an uncommon work as this is surely entitled to the kind notice of the *Athenæum*.

J. D.

The Round Towers of Ireland.—If Mr. J. Graves, who adduces certain observations on the Round Towers of Ireland in a recent number of the *Athenæum*, were to consult the best book upon their history with which I am acquainted, he would find abundant reason to revise his ideas as to their non-connexion with Baal, Bael, or Bel worship. The name of this book is 'The Round Towers of Ireland. With a Dissertation of the Mysteries of Freemasonry, Sabaeism, and of Buddhism.' By Henry O'Brien. One volume, 8vo., with Illustrations, 1834. John O'Daly, 9, Anglesea Street, Dublin, in a catalogue of rare and curious books, No. 10 in an entry as "item, No. 105," under the head of October, 1855, has the following:—"De Antiquitate Turrum Belanorum Pagana Kerriensi, et de Architectura non Campanilis Ecclesiastice, par T. D. Corcagiensi, Hiberno." Small 8vo., old calf, with numerous woodcut engravings of Round Towers interspersed through the text. "Lovanii, 1610." This little book was sold for no smaller price than 10/- The bookseller added, "I never saw another copy of this curious old book." Mr. J. Graves may be assured that there is a surprising accumulation of evidence towards these famous Round Towers not being bell-towers or Christian towers, but that they are heathen *lithoi* or obelisks, of an antiquity which much preceded the times commonly assumed as witnessing their origin. HARGRAVE JENNINGS.

Intelligence of Animals.—When passing review that large stock of well-accredited and interesting anecdotes relating to the instincts and intelligence of quadrupeds and birds, which now forms no inconsiderable part of our literature, it will be found that a very large proportion of the cunning, wariness, and even what we may call noble qualities of these creatures depends either on their training by man, or on the necessity of eluding his grasp as their most deadly foe. Taking the case of the sheep-dog, I have made inquiries from old and intelligent shepherds, and find they are of opinion that during the last half-century, owing to the greater care taken of sheep, from their increased value, and the employment of more skilful shepherds, anxious and careful to select the wisest and best dogs, that the breed of sheep-dogs has progressed in docility and acuteness. As a great amount of pains is incessantly taken to weed out our vicious and stupid domestic animals, and obtain those whose mental qualities fit them best for their various employments, we can easily conceive that the same animal would reach greater perfection under the training and breeding of skilful masters, requiring it for delicate and responsible purposes, than under that of drovers, and that many of its most surprising faculties would lie dormant under no human training at all. Wild beasts, again, are quite unable to compete either with man singly, or aided by his well-trained animals, without bringing into play more subtle qualities than size, speed or strength. The sagacity of the rat and fox seems quickened and developed to elude the snares of man or the cunning of his selected agents. The greater shyness and wariness of our large birds compared to those in uninhabited regions, and the ease with which civilized man can extirpate quadrupeds formidable to savages, and the difficulty which savages experience in keeping down rats and other pests introduced from the centres of civilization, are facts which give weight to the inference that the pre-human quadrupeds and birds were less sagacious, wary and teachable than those now existing; and that the elks, elephants, dogs and lions that roamed over Europe previous to the human period were able to keep their ground more perhaps by strength, but less by brain, while even those of high special instincts, like the beaver, were deficient in versatility. J. SHAW.

Inchnites.—In a quarry near Bewood, Staffordshire, I found, a few days ago, the casts of fossil footprints, evidently reptilian, on a slab of red sandstone; and on another large slab I detected the moulds of what are unmistakably the imprints of two large human feet. The mould of the left foot is very perfect, and measures exactly fifteen inches in length; the distance from the toe of the left to the heel of the right foot is eleven and a half inches. The mould of the right foot is less perfect. These imprints of human feet are, perhaps, deserving the attention of geologists. C. F. F.

Thrift.—The word *thrift* has undergone a curious change of meaning in English. In early days it meant "thriving, prosperity," and a mother, blessing her daughter, prayed that she might live in *thrift*; the Middle Latin *vigencia*, as the Promptorium has it, "flourishing, blooming." Though many husbands and fathers, when paying milliners' bills, might now utter the same prayer in words for their wives and daughters,—to say nothing of sons at college, &c.,—yet the meaning would be changed, the name for prosperity having been transferred to the one great cause of prosperity, saving. The process of the change is not well illustrated by any of our dictionaries, though Trench has a good note on *thrift* in his Select Glossary. If we carry back the history of the word further than Early English, we are taken to a time when not saving, but snatching, was the means of well-being; for, says Mr. Wedgwood, the analogue is old Norse *thrifa*, to seize, snatch, lay hold of; Norse *trifa*, to snatch; *trive* it, to seize hold of. In the good time coming, whether *thrift* gets a new meaning or not, let us hope that English boys and girls will be taught the histories of, and the history in, English words.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—D.—M. M.—H. M. N.—A. W.—E. F. B.—A. E. M.—received.

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